

“TOUGH QUESTIONS- PART 1 ”

1 Timothy 3:1-7
Pastor Jeff Burkholder
July 3, 2011

I. Does CBC allow divorced men to be elders?

Why the answer is yes.

Reason 1 Because of what is stated and not stated in 1 Timothy 3:2.

Reason 2 Because of the context of 1 Timothy 3:1-7.

Reason 3 Because of the context of Scripture as a whole.

II. Why CBC has only men for pastors and elders.

Reason 1 1 Timothy 3:1-7.

Reason 2 1 Timothy 2:11-14.

Reason 3 Luke 6:12-16

1 Timothy 2:11-14, 3:1-7

“Another line of erroneous reasoning is that Paul did not select female elders-pastors because he was working within the confines of the culture of his day, and that had he lived today he would have chosen women because our culture would be more accepting of women as spiritual leaders. But Paul was frequently beaten for violating cultural norms of his day, such as ending the sacrificial system and not enforcing a host of Jewish cultural customs upon Gentile Christians, including circumcision, dietary restrictions, and festivals. Indeed, had Paul not so viciously undermined so many deeply valued cultural norms, he would have lived to a ripe old age instead of being beheaded by his angry critics.”

Mark Driscoll, *A Book You’ll Actually Read on Church Leadership*, Crossway Books, Wheaton, IL, 2008, p. 44.

Luke 6:12-16

“In keeping with the Old Testament practice of reserving the senior leadership of God’s people, the priesthood, exclusively for men, Jesus chose twelve men as his apostles. Some critics have argued that Jesus did not select female apostles because the culture in his day would not have accepted such a bold move. But they neglect to remember that Jesus’ disciples were not chosen by chance or culture acceptability but rather by the will of God the Father that was revealed to Jesus after spending a night in prayer over the matter. It is doubtful that the people in Jesus’ day would have been any more scandalized by the selection of a female disciple as they would have been over the selection of the traitor and extortionist, Matthew.

Furthermore, rather than obeying social customs, Jesus frequently broke them when he felt it was needed, and he was, in part, killed because of his violation of social customs. Examples include healing on the Sabbath, throwing over tables in the temple, eating with godless sinners, and not washing his hands before eating. Clearly, Jesus was no coward who bent to social pressure; if he had wanted to elevate women to the highest level of spiritual leadership he simply would have appointed them as apostles, which he did not.”

Mark Driscoll, *A Book You’ll Actually Read on Church Leadership*, Crossway Books, Wheaton, IL, 2008, pp. 37-38.

CBC Elders:

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|-----------------|----------------|-----------------|
| Keith Brenner | Paul Brosey | Jeff Burkholder |
| Barry Foreman | Jan Gingrich | Chris Hiestand |
| Jim Hottenstein | Mike Kleinhans | Matt McAlonis |
| Donald Miller | Lynn Nissley | Kevin Noll |
| Ray Oberholtzer | Doug Perkins | Brian Risser |
| Todd Roberts | Mark Watkins | |