

# Glad Tidings

“And we bring you good tidings of the promise made unto the fathers...” (Acts 13:32)

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## “I Do Not Agree With Paul”

(Jerry Fite )

**O**N a recent preaching trip, I introduced myself to a visitor from Portland, Oregon. In response to my question as to her religious affiliation, she let me know she had once been a member of the church of Christ, but now she was not affiliated with any particular religious group.

She had recently been interested in knowing more about a group that had received media coverage in her area regarding their work of receiving and helping the poor. Turned on by such selfless work, she was traveling across the United States volunteering to help other similar groups and gathering research for a possible book.

Addressing my curiosity as to why she left the church, she told me she did not like the “church of Christ attitude” in their strict way of approaching the Bible. She believed the Bible, but was turned off by the restrictive interpretations she had experienced in the church.

In addition, she said she believed women should have

more of a prominent role in the church. In her view, Paul was a product of his age in his view of women’s roles. Therefore, she did not agree with Paul.

The words Paul wrote were the very words God revealed (*I Corinthians 2:10-13*). “*If any man thinketh himself to be a prophet, or spiritual, let him take knowledge of the things which I write unto you, that they are the commandment of the Lord*” (*I Corinthians 14:37*). So, when Paul writes that women were not “*to teach, nor have dominion over a man*” (*I Timothy 2:12*), how does one disagree with Paul and still hold to God and believe the Bible?

Trying to reason logically without having the dreaded “church of Christ attitude” I asked her to consider the fact Paul did not appeal to present culture in setting forth God’s restrictions of women not having dominion over man. He based his restrictions on man being created first. “*For Adam was first formed, then Eve*”, and “*Adam was not beguiled...*” but the devil beguiled

Eve, and she, “*being beguiled hath fallen into transgression*” (*I Timothy 2:13-14*). Paul’s restriction is not based upon a cultural bias, but upon historical facts. The Bible agrees with Paul’s facts (*Genesis 2:18-23, 3:1-6*), and God through the Holy Spirit guided Paul’s writings. Disprove the facts, and you can disagree with Paul, but you cannot logically hold to believing the Bible and still accuse Paul of writing from a cultural bias. Needless to say, our little visit ended abruptly.

I thought about this young lady being interested in groups who help people in need. The work of helping others takes place in local churches of Christ on a daily basis. Local churches help other saints when they are in need (*Acts 2:44-45, 4:34-35, I Corinthians 16:1-2*). Then, individual members of these local churches help needy non-Christians as they have opportunity (*Galatians 6:10, James 1:27*). Buying groceries, giving clothes, and helping with bills are occurring without media coverage. If you want to help others, why not serve the Lord in His local church?