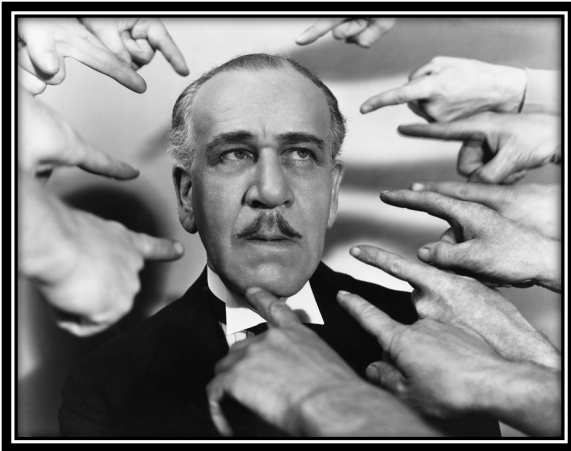




Is the Bible Behind the Times on #MeToo?

Judges 21:25: (NASB) *In those days there was no king in Israel; everyone did what was right in his own eyes.*



The world has changed on every level and in every way. As those things which were hidden and covered up in our society are being revealed, we begin to see aspects of our social order in a different light. The very new social media cry of #metoo is a classic example of this. Never before has it been made so public, that so many men have taken such advantage of so many women and the deep suffering many of these women continue to carry. The social conversation #metoo has prompted is vital and can be healing as well. Now some questions: Where does Christianity fall in the spectrum of these events? Many say that the Bible promotes the disrespect and abuse of women. Would that make Bible-believing Christians supporters of evil? With the good that

the #metoo movement brings, are there any dangers that come with it? What should we, as Christians, do?

 **How it started in October 2017, #MeToo Beginnings, CBC News (Canadian Broadcasting Corporation)**

- (Reporter) *Thousands of women are using two words on social media to identify themselves as survivors of sexual harassment and assault today. It's #metoo. Actress Alyssa Milano shared the idea on Twitter and it quickly went viral. Cheryl Brown is a social media presenter for CBC and she's been following this story. Cheryl, first of all, give us the situation about this. What is this hashtag about?*
- (Cheryl Brown) *As you mentioned, Alyssa Milano got the ball rolling on Sunday when she issued a Tweet that she said was inspired by a friend. The post that she tweeted reads, "If all the woman who have been sexually harassed or assaulted wrote #metoo as a status, we might give people a sense of the magnitude of the problem."*



Julie, one of our CQ volunteers and today's contributor: (Julie's comments are in pink.) Alyssa Milano was quoting a community organizer, Tarana Burke, who coined the phrase years ago when she was protesting sexual abuse of minority women who were socioeconomically disadvantaged. It was a rallying cry for sexual abuse.

The hashtag caught on and is now a movement for social activism.

God created the relationship between men and women:

Genesis 2:20,24: (NASB) *²⁰The man gave names to all the cattle, and to the birds of the sky, and to every beast of the field, but for Adam there was not found a helper suitable for him. (God created Eve out of Adam but is this equal?) ²⁴For this reason a man shall leave his father and his mother and be joined to his wife; and they shall become one flesh.*



God knew ahead of time that no helper would be found and created man and woman in this context to accentuate the interconnected relationship.

What does helper mean? One less experienced, as in one with less authority, or one who is inferior?

Help: Strongs #5828; ezer, help, succor, one who helps

Let's take a look at this same word used in a different context:

Psalms 121:1-2: (KJV) *1 I will lift up mine eyes unto the hills, from whence cometh my **help** <5828>. 2 My **help** <5828> cometh from the LORD, which made heaven and earth.*

God's original intent for humanity was not a relationship built around dominance of one over the other, but rather it was to be based on equality, mutual respect, and was complimentary.

Genesis 3:16: (NASB) *To the woman He said, I will greatly multiply your pain in childbirth, in pain you will bring forth children; yet your desire will be for your husband, and he will rule over you.*

Sin was committed in the Garden, guilt reigns and the door to godless behaviors has now been opened. God responds with penalties for each (we will not now comment on the penalty for Adam and Satan). Notice that all of the rules for living have now changed. Adam and Eve were now to live under severe restrictions, not the previously enjoyed freedom of the Garden.

In this curse on the woman, she will bear children in pain. In spite of that, her desire (longing) still will be for her husband. Another part of this curse is that her husband will *rule over* her. He would be the head of the household.

Rule: Strongs #4910, to rule, have dominion, to cause to rule, to exercise dominion

God's original intent when He created Adam and Eve was to have two equal partners. Satan, through the introduction of sin and the curse upon mankind altered God's original intent. We are now mired in this new concept.

God's intent was for equality and cohesiveness but was spoiled by sin. We are operating under a faulty system now because of sin's ruling power. The dominion is supposed to be in the context of "taking care of" but ends up going down horrible roads that were not God's intent.





Israel was given God’s Law to combat the effects of sin. How well did they do with it, and what does that have to do with #metoo?

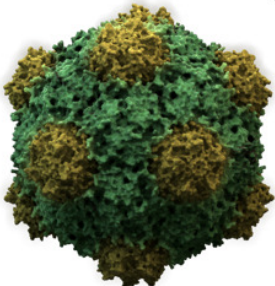
The entrance of sin has everything to do with #metoo, as all abuse and all mistreatment are founded in the ungodly behavior of self-worship. The more we see the world through the eyes of ME and MY desires, the less likely we will be able to see others as valuable in their own right as fellow human beings.

))) Average women are afraid, #MeToo Not Just for Celebs, Attorney Jack Tuckner

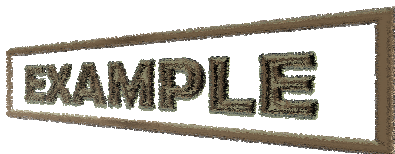
- *The average person doesn’t feel that she could lose her job. The average person isn’t going to have another contract waiting for her, another movie, another starring role as an anchor on another network. The average person is worried that she’s going to lose her job, perhaps lose her home, her apartment, not be able to find a job right away. That’s scary as heck and you don’t know what to do if you think that your boss is subjecting you to unwelcomed sexual attention. Sexualizing you, objectifying you. It may be subtle, it may appear to be playful, but in the meantime, you don’t like it. And you know what? You don’t have to put out one wit of energy, one molecule of effort beyond what is required to perform the essential functions of your job.*

Companies are now paying out millions of dollars from sexual harassment claims. Because it is starting to hit American corporations where it hurts, things are starting to change a bit.

Men, we are talking to you. There is a #metoo virus. When you get a virus, it is miserable and contagious. There are pieces of our male behavior that add to this virus. Let’s look at the first piece.



#metoo
VIRUS
SELF-WORSHIP
“I am most important”
leads to a degraded society.



Israel fell deeply into such a godless stupor easily and quickly. This next account was probably soon after the death of Joshua, which means it was not too long after entering the Promised Land. God delivered them many times.

The first phrase of the story and the last sentence of the story speak volumes as to the depraved condition people can get into when they abandon God:

Judges 19:1: (NASB) *Now it came about in those days, **when there was no king in Israel**, that there was a certain Levite staying in the remote part of the hill country of Ephraim, who took a concubine for himself from Bethlehem in Judah.*



It came about in those days, when there was no king in Israel - this gives us a sense there was no order, and men were left to their own devices.

Judges 19-21 tells a horrible story of depravity in Israel that typifies the depravity of our world today. A Levite in danger for his life literally throws his concubine to the men clamoring for him. The story involves self-preserving actions at the expense of a woman, physical and sexual abuse leading to murder, a civil war over these matters and the kidnapping of women to be wives of the kidnappers. We see *when man walks away from God, he no longer has clear moral bearings.*

This story and the book of Judges come to an end with our theme text that clearly verifies this:

Judges 21:25: (NASB) *In those days there was no king in Israel; everyone did what was right in his own eyes.*

15 Symptoms of Narcissistic Personality Disorder

(Source:ActiveBeat.com)

1. Always talk about themselves
2. Fantasize (power) (brilliance) (beauty) (success)
3. Believe they are superior
4. Require constant praise
5. Sense of entitlement
6. Take advantage of others
7. Envious of others
8. Enjoy being the center of attention
9. Lack empathy
10. Boundless ambition
11. Incredibly insecure
12. Incredibly charming
13. Extremely competitive
14. Hold grudges
15. Do not take criticism well

These things are done without remorse and makes a person more susceptible to harassing another.



How has the virus of self-worship contributed to the kinds of harassment and abuse we now see?

One of the keys to the injustice of the #metoo movement is highlighting the abuse of power. The abuser is always in a higher position either socioeconomically or in a work environment and puts their wants above respecting the victim. The abuser has a sense that he (and sometimes she) is entitled to this action and if they were caught, there would be little or no consequence. That devalues the worth of the victim and their voice.

I want to give you just two quick examples dealing with the religious community. Churches are going through a crisis using a derivative called #churchtoo. (Source: KRVS.org, "Amid #MeToo, Evangelicals Grapple with Misconduct in Their Own Churches," by Tom Gjelten, January 24, 2018)

An article written in January 2018 discusses the tearful confession of a Tennessee evangelical pastor who forced a sexual incident on a 17-year old girl when he was her youth pastor. "The issue of pastoral abuse is especially sensitive in evangelical churches because many of them hold to what they consider a biblical view on male and female leadership roles. Southern Baptist Convention, by far the largest of the evangelical denominations, does not ordain women or encourage them to play official church leadership roles. Some evangelical women say this attitude has produced a patriarchal culture in their church communities and led church authorities to be reluctant to move decisively against pastors accused of improper behavior."

But one person quoted in the article said, "It's important to separate distinctive gender roles in the church from the exploitation of power differentials between a pastor and his flock...What we saw in that incident was a combining of those two issues and a failure to understand that what one person might describe as a sexual incident is really about those other things, power and abuse and violation."

The young girl brought it to the attention of the board and the board moved the man and threw him a goodbye party! This information has come out to the congregation and now he is apologizing.

You cannot call yourself a Christian and go down those roads.

(Source: foxnews.com, "I pretended it didn't happen: Nuns report abuse by priests," by Nicole Winfield and Rodney Muhumuza, Associated Press, July 29, 2018) "...After decades of silence, the nun is one of a handful worldwide to come forward recently on an issue that the Catholic Church has yet to come to terms with: The sexual abuse of religious sisters by priests and bishops...the problem is global and pervasive, thanks to the universal tradition of sisters' second-class status in the Catholic Church and their ingrained subservience to the men who run it. Nuns were considered "safe" sexual partners for priests who feared they might be infected with HIV if they went to prostitutes or women in the general population."

Special guest: Rick's daughter, Amy McKiernan. Amy has had several experiences along the lines of our topic. (Amy's comments are in light blue.)



Amy, let's start with an experience you had at age thirteen in middle school with a teacher.



One of my teachers touched me inappropriately several times. The first time I thought maybe it was an accident, so I brushed it off. The second time he was much more intentional, and the third time was very intentional, and I decided to go to my dad.

My reaction to that was to call the principal and tell her I had a real problem. There was a teacher who I thought acted inappropriately, and I told her the teacher's name. I said I needed to come in and talk to her and the teacher as well.



Amy, what happened after you reported this?

Several other girls came to me in the hallway, thanking me for reporting it.

When somebody speaks up, it gives others strength.

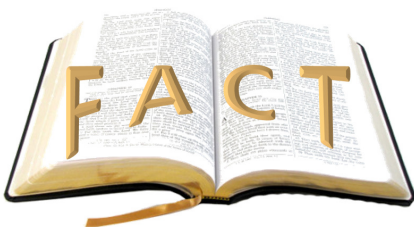
As a dad with moral fiber, when somebody does that to your daughter, you want to find out what happened. I sat down with the principal first and she was listening very carefully. I said, "I want to talk to him and look him in the eye." I talked through it with her and promised that when I talked to him, I wouldn't cross any line, but I was mad and wanted him to know it.

The teacher comes down to the office and sits down across from me and we begin talking. I tell him what my daughter said. He said to me, "No, that's not what happened." I said, "Really? So, are you telling me my daughter lied?" I am not a big person who is intimidating by size, but I've been told I have a stare that could kill. He was on the other end of it, and I was not a happy camper! He started to shake. He didn't have an answer. He was trying to tell me, "I'm so sorry; things were not intentional." The conversation goes on. We are getting ready to finish, we stand up and he looks at me and apologized. He put out his hand to shake my hand. I wouldn't shake his hand. I just looked at him and said, "Listen, NEVER touch my daughter again! Ever!" He trembled as he left the room.

The bottom line is that he was fired. Fired - not moved or transferred. I talked to the principal a week later and she said, "I had to fire him because there was too much that came out after your daughter spoke up."

Amy, what did that leave you with?

That is when my "victim mindset" started setting in, when you see yourself as a victim and become more accepting to despicable actions towards you.



Women played vital roles in the support of Jesus and the gospel.

Many women followed Jesus and did their part to support him and the gospel:

Luke 8:1-3: (NRSV) *¹He went on through cities and villages, proclaiming... the good news... The twelve were with him, ²as well as some women who had been cured of evil spirits and infirmities: Mary, called Magdalene, from whom seven*



demons had gone out, ³and Joanna, the wife of Herod's steward Chuza, and Susanna, and many others, who provided for them out of their resources.

Women worked side by side with men in the witnessing of the gospel:

Acts 18:24-26: (NASB) ²⁴Now a Jew named Apollos...an eloquent man, came to Ephesus; and he was mighty in the Scriptures. ²⁵This man had been instructed in the way of the Lord; and being fervent in spirit, he was speaking and teaching accurately the things concerning Jesus, being acquainted only with the baptism of John; ²⁶and he began to speak out boldly in the synagogue. But when Priscilla and Aquila heard him, they took him aside and explained to him the way of God more accurately.

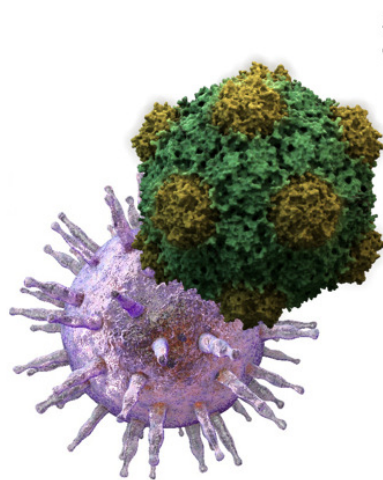


What about the New Testament? Does God alert Christians to be aware of the same kinds of challenges?

God is painfully plain on these matters. It is important to note that while He does not generally separate men and women with regard to cautions about falling away from His standards, which are always based in respect, He does give clear instruction as to the order He wants the called-out ones to follow.



Remember, men, our virus points are dedicated to you.



#metoo

VIRUS

SELF-IMPOSED IGNORANCE

We position ourselves to not know what is wrong and what is right, even though it is obvious if we would just pay attention.

Ignorance is chosen because it is convenient, easier or more fun.

First, the plain and simple warning of God for every one of us:

Romans 1:18, 20-23: (NASB) ¹⁸For the wrath of God is revealed... against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men who suppress the truth in unrighteousness...(self-imposed ignorance) ²⁰For since the creation of the world His invisible attributes, His eternal power and divine nature, have been clearly seen, being understood through what has been made, so that they are without excuse. ²¹For even though they knew God, they did not honor Him as God or give thanks, but they became futile in their speculations, and their foolish heart was darkened. ²²Professing to be wise, they became fools, ²³and exchanged the glory of the incorruptible God for an image in the form of corruptible man and of birds and four-footed animals and crawling creatures.

Amy, share with us an experience in high school with verbal harassment.



I was a freshman in high school. I was in the cafeteria and a group of guys at a table called me over. I walked over, and they started making uncomfortable comments and asking me inappropriate questions and it was so embarrassing. As they continued, I began feeling mortified, but I could also see on the face of one of the boys that he was feeling mortified, too. I saw it switch within him and could see the guilt set in. He didn't speak up or take a stand, but you could tell he was uncomfortable with the conversation. Afterwards, he ended up finding me and briefly apologized.

When he apologized, did that make it better for you?

No, it didn't. It was a nice gesture, but the damage was already done.

You had that previous experience a few years before, and now you have this experience in high school, what does that do with the victim mentality you discussed earlier?

It just keeps growing. I started thinking this is just the way things are. This is how people view me.

Even though there was nothing physical, it is the harassment that sets in and creates an environment that says, "This is what I am and what I should expect." But it should NOT be what you expect!



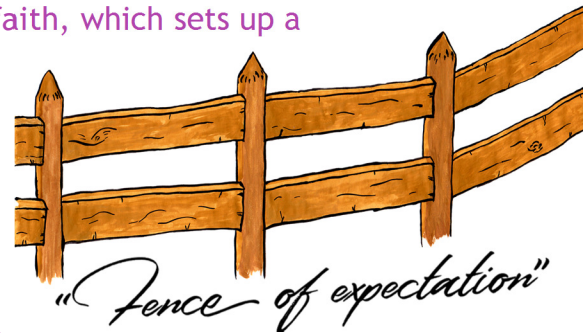
Men, we must realize the little joking done in fun can create that victim mentality in someone and damage them little by little.

My guess is those boys learned very quickly there is no consequence for doing that to someone. As they grow up and go into college and into the working world, those are the same little boys who think it is all good fun.

Julie, how can we as Christian men and women do better when we see things like this?

In an article quoting Tarana Burke, the #metoo movement's founder, she said, "People are now complaining, 'I date in the workplace. How can I even date now? I have to sign a contract that this is all consensual.' If #metoo gets in the way of your love life, you're doing it wrong. It's not about flirting or being alone with a woman. It's about lies, touching, groping and not listening to 'no.' It is about an unequal power dynamic between some people and the abuse of power."

I was thinking, how can we do better? Using Jonathan as an example, Jonathan is always talking about his wife Jewel in a positive way and includes her in conversations and all events. If he is going to be somewhere, he lets her know about it and he includes her. There is no doubt that Jonathan is married...and happily so. This sets up boundaries for women he interacts with. He always is talking about God and his faith, which sets up a "fence of expectation." When you are going to interact with him, you are going to know an off-color joke is not going to be well-received. If someone was going to flirt with him verbally or physically, it would not be well-received.



Rick, as a minister, you counsel women and young girls in a variety of issues. What do you do to set up boundaries?



I do a lot of things. I talk about my wife frequently, letting the person I am speaking with know that I discuss the overall concept (not confidential details) of what is happening with her. She actually is a tremendous resource for me. I also approach someone as a sister or a daughter. For me, that is a "fence of expectation." Part of the fence for me is making sure that individual understands I see them as family. We are literally at arm's length. You cannot be too careful. Even writing emails, there are times when I am writing to someone who is struggling with something, and I will type out a sentence and I will look at it and say, "Hmm, I wonder if that could be read wrong?" I will change it to say something more generic. I do not want to take a chance. I respect, by God's grace, those individuals too much as human beings and as God's chosen ones to do anything that could even remotely be misconstrued.

Once you take one step down the wrong road, it is really easy to take another step. Just like the boy at the table in high school, if there is no consequence,

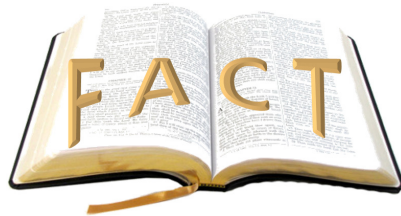




then it is therefore “okay.” If it is okay, then we have that self-imposed ignorance working in our head and are headed for potential disaster.

Roles identified by Jesus, *The Role of Women*, Reverend Carrie Sandon

- *There’s no sense in which a Christian man is more important to God than a Christian woman. But the roles in which they are to play within the family of God are slightly different. And if you look at the ministry of the Lord Jesus we see this very definitely. He was actually revolutionary in the way that he treated women given the Jewish and Roman cultures of his day, but he was absolutely clear that they didn’t have the same role as men. So, he taught women individually, he spoke to them in public. These are things that men wouldn’t have normally done in his culture. But when it came to him appointing his disciples and then his apostles, it was men who he chose for that role. Men are the ones who are to lead. In the life of the local church, it is not appropriate for women to take positions of overall leadership. That is a distortion of the created order and will not lead to unity in the church.*



There is a VERY SPECIFIC order God has set for Christianity, and there are very specific reasons why we must adhere to that standard.

Ephesians 5:22-27: (ASV) ²²Wives, be in **subjection <5293>** unto your own husbands, as unto the Lord. ²³For the husband is the head of the wife, as Christ also is the head of the church, being himself the saviour of the body. ²⁴But as the church is **subject <5293>** to Christ, so let the wives also be to their husbands in everything. (We are all subject to Christ.) ²⁵Husbands, love (agape) your wives, even as Christ also loved (agape) the church and gave himself up for it; ²⁶that he might sanctify it, having cleansed it by the washing of water with the word, ²⁷that he might present the church to himself a glorious church, not having spot or wrinkle or any such thing; but that it should be holy and without blemish.

Submit: Strongs #5293, hupotasso; to subordinate; reflexively, to obey

Our adhering to this order is showing our total devotion to Christ.



This is the standard. It does *not* say, “Wives be in subjection to your tyrannical husband who abuses you.” The husband has to treat the wife like God treats Jesus, and like Jesus treats the church. In order to be respected, *husbands, love (agape) your wives.* Agape love is the highest form of love, without any limit or boundaries and without any expectations of love coming back. What wife would not want to be “subjected” to that kind of undying, devoted love?



Different does not mean unequal:

Romans 16:1-2: (NASB) *¹I commend to you our sister Phoebe, who is a servant of the church which is at Cenchrea; ²that you receive her in the Lord in a manner worthy of the saints, and that you help her in whatever matter she may have need of you; for she herself has also been a helper of many, and of myself as well. (What a testimony of respect for this sister in Christ!)*

The Christian hierarchy defines roles and not values. The hierarchy of the man is over the woman. It is defining the role that you play. It has nothing to do with the value of the individuals. As the Scriptures show often, the woman is just as valuable as the man. Just because the role of the husband is one of authority, it does not make him better or more valuable.

We are all volunteers here at Christian Questions. What is the percentage of volunteers who are women? About 98.9 percent.

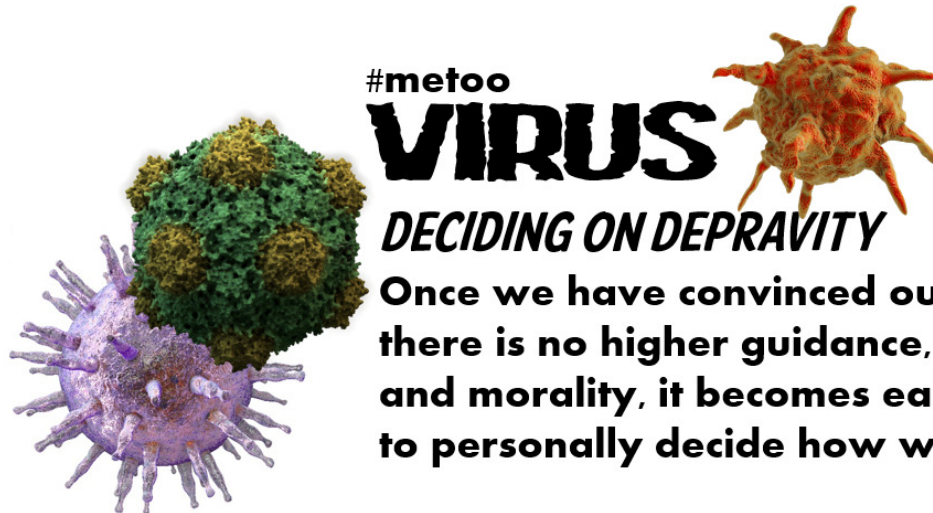
If women should not be teachers, what about all of the women who do research and answer back to our listeners who write in with Bible questions? And you have had women guests on the program many times, like today. Is that going beyond what pleases God?

(Rick) No. When we are witnessing the gospel to the world, the Scriptures tell us both men and women often witness together. This is not in a teaching role inside of a congregation. At Christian Questions, we try to tap into the talents of whomever is volunteering because there is so much work to do. If you notice, the primary conversations are between myself and Jonathan, which is by design. We believe that fits the design that God put in place. Under that hierarchy we have all of our volunteers. It does not make us more valuable. It defines the role we play.



What are the dangers of causes that are meant to heal becoming causes that hurt?

Once we have found comfort in living ignorantly towards God, we can now easily open the door to yet another downward step towards the pit of vile morality. This next step is one that needs the arrogance of self-worship and "no limits thinking" of shunning God's order to thrive.

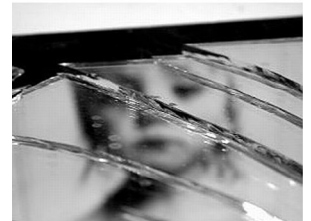


**#metoo
VIRUS
DECIDING ON DEPRAVITY**
Once we have convinced ourselves there is no higher guidance, plan and morality, it becomes easy to personally decide how we will live.

Romans 1:28: (NASB) ²⁸And just as they did not see fit to acknowledge God any longer, God gave them over to a depraved mind, to do those things which are not proper...

Depravity ruins lives. As an example of that, we will go back to Amy and her next experience which was very difficult. We discussed this on the air in 2014.

Please see August 31, 2014, CQ Episode 829: "What Happens When Life Gets Broken?"



Amy, at age 15 you were raped. This was the low point in our family's life. Amy, what was the result for you after that experience?



I was broken. The "victim mentality" took over. I felt misery and accepting of all of it. It became a way of life and defined who I was.

There were several years of self-destructive behavior after that experience. After the rape, I would pick her up from school every day. We would go home, and she would not talk. This was one of the deepest and darkest times in our lives. The previous experiences that occurred before set this up to be even worse than it had to be.



The message here is when you harass or abuse in any way, you are a contributor to the downfall of a human being. Amy, obviously you are not broken now. As a matter of fact, you are a very powerful woman now.

I like to think so.



The following is referring to American actor Matt Damon suggesting that harassment and rape are on two different levels of wrong. It was not well-received on social media, and this feminist is coming to his defense:



Perspective, #MeToo - Movement or Witch Hunt, Factual Feminist

- *...Her advice to Damon and men everywhere was to remain silent. The time right now is for men just to listen. Well, I am a woman and I don't have to be silent and I think Damon was right. Minnie Driver's claim that there was no hierarchy of abuse is incoherent. Gradations of harm and degrees of guilt are fundamental to our moral intuitions and our legal systems. Our criminal laws make many fine distinctions among bad and worse actions. And so do our judgments of others in everyday life. Telling men as a species to shut up and listen - that isn't progress, it's sexism. What I wish is that Damon did not have to issue a ritual recantation and that men and women could discuss the issues freely and rationally. If men and women of goodwill can work together they make historic progress in the fight against harassment and abuse, but to succeed the movement is going to have to channel its outrage and confront its own excesses.*

(Source: bostonglobe.com, "Here's what Matt Damon said about #MeToo, and the backlash that followed," by Sophia Eppolito, December 19, 2017)

Matt Damon in an ABC News interview talking about Harvey Weinstein, US Senator Al Franken and comedian Louis C.K: "This [is] like 1 percent of the guys who are losing their careers," Damon said. "It's not everybody. It just feels like it."

Some Twitter responses:

Alyssa Milano: There are different stages of cancer. Some more treatable than others. But it's still cancer.

Rose McGowan: Me the day after a mass shooting: You know what, we just aren't talking enough about all the people not committing mass murder.

Arnesa: Matt Damon definitely has some skeletons in his closet. Innocent men aren't this obsessed with redirecting the conversation about sexual assault. There has to be the ability to talk. Christians - of all people - should have that ability in a better and stronger way.

Amy, after the rape you talked about this victim mentality that was beginning to set in. Where did you end up with that?



It completely took over. There was a downward spiral, and I couldn't get out of it.

We went to a counselor to get help, but the help was not working so we had to make adjustments. Amy was completely broken for a long time. It took a lot of care, prayer, effort and attention. As a dad, it was a heartbreaking period and took years before we started seeing progress.

Amy, what would you as a 30+-year-old go back and tell your 13-year-old self in that cafeteria? What advice would you have given her?



Take a stronger stand. Do not let it define her. These things do not define us. If we allow them to, it becomes who we are.

Teach your daughters that it is *not* okay to be a victim and that it is important to speak up because speaking up will keep somebody else safe.



Jesus stepped out well beyond the norms of his culture in his respect and care for women.

John 4:7-15: (NASB) ⁷There came a woman of Samaria to draw water... (The Samaritans were a people who were part Jewish and had much disagreement with Jewish belief. Continuing...) Jesus said to her, Give me a drink. ⁸For his disciples had gone away into the city to buy food. ⁹Therefore the Samaritan woman said to him, How is it that you, being a Jew, ask me for a drink since I am a Samaritan woman?... ¹⁰ Jesus answered and said to her, If you knew the gift of God, and who it is who says to you, Give me a drink, you would have asked him, and he would have given you living water. (The mere fact of this conversation happening sets Jesus apart.) ¹¹She said to him, Sir, you have nothing to draw with and the well is deep; where then do you get that living water? ¹²You are not greater than our father Jacob, are you, who gave us the well, and drank of it himself and his sons and his cattle?

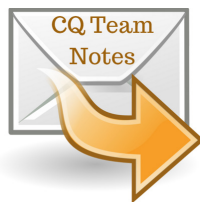
I believe this was the first time Jesus ever revealed that he was the Christ - he gave this monumental reveal to a woman.

Jesus proceeds to tell her about the living water of the Gospel and also herself and about her people and about truth:

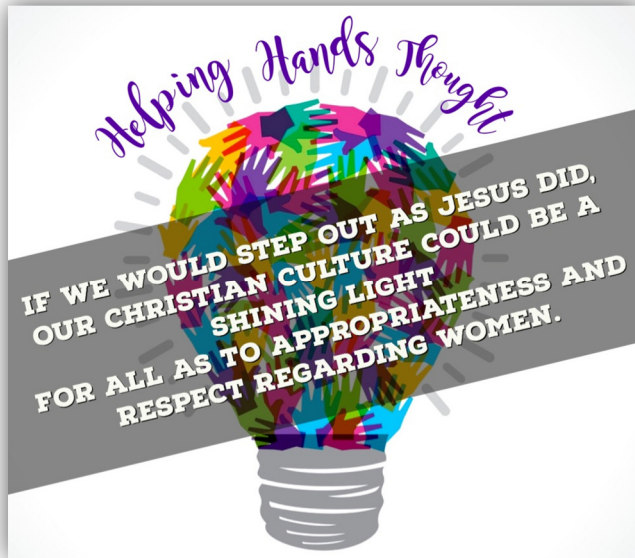
John 4:23-26: (NASB) ²³But an hour is coming, and now is, when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth; for such people the Father seeks to be His worshipers. ²⁴God is spirit, and those who worship Him must worship in spirit and truth. ²⁵The woman said to him, I know that Messiah is coming (he who is called Christ); when that one comes, he will declare all things to us. ²⁶Jesus said to her, I who speak to you am he.

The woman goes back to the city, leaving her water pot behind and shouts out that she had seen the Messiah. Many Samaritans came to seek him out for they believed her, and Jesus spent two days with them.

Jesus was powerful in putting women in a position of honor and respect.

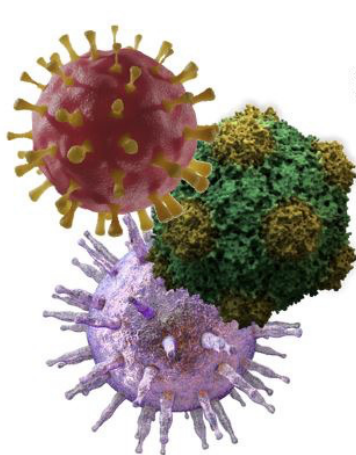


Abby, a CQ contributor writes: Starting with Luke 10:38, the story of Mary and Martha and how Jesus treated them is another example. In a time when certain sects of Judaism prohibited women from even being taught the Torah, Jesus was setting the stage for equality in the body of Christ. Unfortunately, women were bound to the home and that was one of the only ways they could serve. Jesus was calling them to more. Mary pushed the boundaries of society and sat in the midst of men to hear the word of God from the Son of God. There would be no place for belittling others because of their gender. Jesus loved all and not one more than the other. I believe Jesus was calling women to nurture the faith of others and not be put in the backdrop of society.



Where do the self-worship, self-imposed ignorance and depravity bring us as a culture? How do we fight it?

As Christians, we are supposed to have protective walls built around our hearts and minds in relation to these things. Unfortunately, we do not always do a good enough job with this, so we need to be ever vigilant in our everyday thoughts and experiences. This is a major part of what *fighting the good fight of faith* is all about.



#metoo

VIRUS

**CONTINUALLY CORRUPTING
OUR CONSCIENCE**

**Once we have contaminated
our conscience, it becomes a
life-absorbing challenge to change it!**



Different treatment, #MeToo Not Just for Celebs, Jack Tuckner Attorney

- *If you were a boy performing the same job, would you be treated the same way that your manager/boss/supervisor/colleague is treating you? And if not, if there is any whiff of sexual content, anything unwelcomed, nonconsensual, something that makes you uncomfortable, it's illegal. You need to oppose it and you have to do it in a way that you are protected because there's proof that you're pushing back.*



Even unbelievers can see right and wrong from a higher perspective:

Romans 2:14-16: (NASB) ¹⁴For when Gentiles who do not have the Law do instinctively the things of the Law, these, not having the Law, are a law to themselves, ¹⁵in that they show the work of the Law written in their hearts, their conscience bearing witness and their thoughts alternately accusing or else defending them, ¹⁶on the day when, according to my gospel, God will judge the secrets of men through Christ Jesus.

Christian or not, most people have a sense of treating people with respect. Most of us know when we are being abusive with words or actions.

The extraordinary challenge of ungodly compromise creeping in is always there:

1 Timothy 4:1-2: (NASB) ¹But the Spirit explicitly says that in later times (today) some will fall away from the faith, paying attention to deceitful spirits and doctrines of demons, ²by means of the hypocrisy of liars seared in their own conscience as with a branding iron.

Seared in their own conscience as with a branding iron - when we listen to a false teaching long enough, we accept it and do not question it. Our conscience is "seared" preventing us from looking beyond it. This reminds us of the three-part podcast we did on hellfire starting with the [May 29, 2018, Episode #1024, "Is the Hell of Christian Tradition Taught in the Bible?"](#)

In the context of #metoo, when we allow our conscience to be seared, we are telling ourselves it is okay to cross a line and be abusive.

A few more Scriptures dealing with today's time:

Matthew 10:26-27: (NASB) ²⁶...there is nothing concealed that will not be revealed or hidden that will not be known. ²⁷What I tell you in the darkness, speak in the light; and what you hear whispered in your ear, proclaim upon the housetops.

1 Corinthians 4:5: (NASB) ...but wait until the Lord comes who will both bring to light the things hidden in the darkness and disclose the motives of men's hearts...

It looks to me like this is happening all over - bad behavior in government and sinful actions. Secrets are being revealed so rapidly that some don't even choose to hide it anymore, like violence happening during the day, pornography, excessive drug use.

In conjunction with this, we need to act behind closed doors just as we do out in the open.

Integrity is acting in the same righteous way regardless of who will know.

Amy, when the rape happened, you were someplace you were not supposed to be and there was a little lying and deceptiveness to get you there. Having said that, did you struggle with feeling like you may have deserved what happened and it was your fault?

Absolutely.

What would you tell others now?



You never deserve it! You may have made a mistake or made choices that were not the best, but it is not a punishment and you didn't deserve it, no matter what you did. It is important to get out of the victim mindset. Often, people move on and become a survivor. The problem with identifying as a survivor is that it still defines you. It should never define you. It is not who you are.



What was it like being a survivor in relation to a victim?



Amy and her family

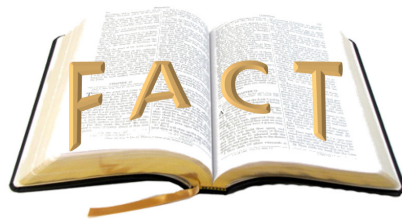
I identified with a survivor, but it was still so much of who I was. I was this "thing" that happened to me, this thing I survived. That is what my life was. It defined me. Getting out of that definition and allowing *myself* to define who I was - finally I became an overcomer. That is where we all need to be. That is where you really let your strength shine. Being strong can look different for everyone. You can be a voice for all to hear, or a voice when someone needs it, to just quiet self-care. Taking the first step can be the hardest. It might be confiding in someone or finding counseling, making a report or taking a stand. Let that strength shine, whatever that means for you.

This thing that happened to you years ago just doesn't play a role in your life anymore.

Not at all.



What got us through that experience as a family was faith in God, letting God direct us and living up to something higher. We had to find a way to go higher than those experiences and it was really difficult, but by God's grace, over a long period of time, we found our way.



Jesus' resurrection was revealed to female followers before his apostles, and he appeared to Mary Magdalene before any man as well. Mary Magdalene was healed by Jesus; she helped his ministry, was there at the cross, went to prepare for his burial and was there at his tomb.

On that resurrection morning, Mary had gone to the tomb with the other women. Once everyone else left the empty tomb, she alone lingered and would be blessed as a result, with an angelic appearance.

After the angels comforted her:

John 20:14-18: (NASB) ¹⁴She turned around and saw Jesus standing there, and did not know that it was Jesus. ¹⁵Jesus said to her, Woman, why are you weeping? Whom are you seeking? Supposing him to be the gardener, she said to him, Sir, if you have carried him away, tell me where you have laid him, and I will take him away. ¹⁶Jesus said to her, Mary! She turned and



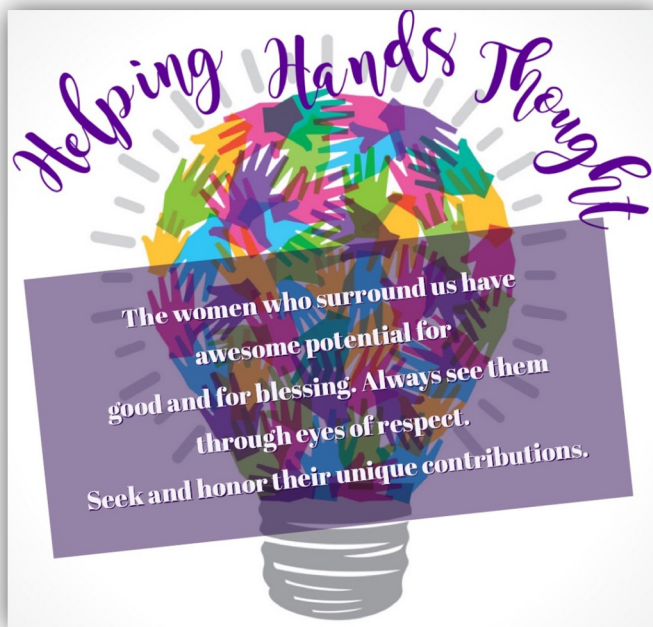
said to him in Hebrew, *Rabboni!* (which means, *Teacher*). ¹⁷Jesus said to her, *Stop clinging to me, for I have not yet ascended to the Father; but go to my brethren and say to them, I ascend to my Father and your Father, and my God and your God.* ¹⁸Mary Magdalene came, announcing to the disciples, *I have seen the Lord, and that he had said these things to her.*

Jesus revealed himself and spoke **FIRST** to the broken-hearted Mary with words of deep compassion and understanding, and he also spoke to her with his gentle managing of her touch.

Jesus treated women with a high level of respect, integrity, honor and care. The message for Christians is, if that is the way Jesus did it, that is the way we should do it. There is never an excuse for the negative behaviors we have been discussing.

Within the cultural confines, Jesus elevated women to the point he could. Within God's pronouncement of the curse, he did for women as he could. He never violated God's rules and said to a woman, "Okay, you are going to be my chief apostle!" But he did bring them along as disciples. He gave them a special blessing, a special privilege whenever he could. These are examples for us so Christian men can see that Christian women have value.

The hierarchy within Christianity is not about individual value; it is simply defining the roles. We can find a way to put everything in order of respect.



We want to build a "fence of expectation." We want to be specific about our expectations of others - how we expect them to treat us - and we need to treat others with that same respect. We all need to set our own boundaries.

We need a mutual sense of looking up to one another, through the eyes of faith and godliness. We are privileged to act in a higher way.

***So, is the Bible behind the times on #metoo?
For Jonathan and Rick and Christian Questions...
Think about it...!***



Join us next week for our podcast on August 6, 2018:
Ep. #1033: How Do I Relight the Fire
of My Christian Faith?

Bonus Material

One of the most important things you can do on this earth is to let people know they are not alone. – Shannon L. Alder

Different but equal:

Philippians 4:1-3: (NRSV) ¹Therefore, my brothers and sisters, whom I love and long for, my joy and crown, stand firm in the Lord in this way, my beloved. ²I urge Euodia and I urge Syntyche to be of the same mind in the Lord. ³Yes, and I ask you also, my loyal companion, help these women, for they have struggled beside me in the work of the gospel, together with Clement and the rest of my co-workers, whose names are in the book of life.

Galatians 3:28-29: (NRSV) ²⁸There is no longer Jew or Greek, there is no longer slave or free, there is no longer male and female; for all of you are one in Christ Jesus. ²⁹And if you belong to Christ, then you are Abraham's offspring, heirs according to the promise.

Equal opportunity for an equal reward!

An examination of one particular verse that really seems to shut women down in the New Testament:

1 Corinthians 14:34-35: (YLT) ³⁴Your women in the assemblies let them be silent, for it hath not been permitted to them to speak, but to be subject, as also the law saith; ³⁵and if they wish to learn anything, at home their own husbands let them question, for it is a shame to women to speak in an assembly.

Specific points from this verse:

- *Your women*
- *silence*
- *shame for women to speak*

Is this really about not even talking? Need to examine the context:

1 Corinthians 14:5: (NASB) Now I wish that you all spoke in tongues, but even more that you would prophesy; and greater is one who prophesies than one who speaks in tongues, unless he interprets, so that the church may receive edifying.

Speaking in tongues was a major issue in Corinth, as it was an abused spiritual gift:

1 Corinthians 14:18-19: (NASB) ¹⁸I thank God, I speak in tongues more than you all; ¹⁹however, in the church I desire to speak five words with my mind so that I may instruct others also, rather than ten thousand words in a tongue.



Paul emphatically states that real communication trumps unrecognizable spiritual truth.

Paul sets some guidelines in place:

1 Corinthians 14:27-36: (YLT) ²⁷*If an unknown tongue any one do speak, by two, or at the most, by three, and in turn, and let one interpret; ²⁸and if there may be no interpreter, let him be silent in an assembly, and to himself let him speak, and to God. ²⁹And prophets—let two or three speak, and let the others discern, ³⁰and if to another sitting anything may be revealed, let the first be silent; ³¹for ye are able, one by one, all to prophesy, that all may learn, and all may be exhorted, ³²and the spiritual gift of prophets to prophets are subject, ³³for God is not a God of tumult, but of peace...*

We pause here in the middle of verse 33 as the previous thought is complete and a new thought begins.

Paul now addresses women specifically relating to decorum:

...as in all the assemblies of the saints. ³⁴Your women in the assemblies let them be silent, for it hath not been permitted to them to speak, but to be subject, as also the law saith.

Paul is saying that your women, as other women, should not be speaking in tongues as that would be usurping undue authority within the context of a church meeting.

Verse 35 goes to an even deeper problem - that of the Greek culture and its treatment of women:

³⁵and if they wish to learn anything, at home their own husbands let them question, for it is a shame to women to speak in an assembly. ³⁶From you did the word of God come forth? Or to you alone did it come?

(Source: The writings of Professor Becker of Germany) At this time, and in the very focus of civilization, the women were regarded as a lower order of beings; naturally prone to evil, and fitted only for propagating the species and gratifying the sensual appetites of man. There were no educational institutions for girls, nor any private teachers at home.

Thus, we have a matter of decorum within a church meeting - speaking in tongues, not just speaking. We have a second matter of culture - the necessity for social training of women in Greek society where there had been none. This actually shows Christianity advocating for women, including and teaching them when they had no previous opportunity.

