

## Equality

Elder Tess Lambert France SOTP Video 35

Key

A. = Audience

*Italics* = difficult to here portion of audio

We have gone over some verses a couple of times now. Friday Night and Yesterday we went on a journey through history. We were considering history all the way from Noah when god starts again and took that all the way through ancient Israel and the end of ancient Israel into the Christian dispensation. What we are discussing really is does God change? If you want to say that He doesn't then how do you read those passages? If you want to take them as they read and bring them into today, how consistently are you willing to do that. And if you don't want to bring them into today and follow His instructions just as they said, then what we find ourselves doing is saying that different dispensations have different instructions. That there is a change and if we are in a new dispensation how do you know what God requires of you?

So we went through verses that spoke of a Jew verses a Gentile and how they were treated in Ancient Israel. We went through Deuteronomy, 2 Samuel, all through the old testament. If you are a good Pharisees in the New testament what is your attitude towards those who don't have an Israelite passport?

A. They can become a slave.

They can become a slave and at the very least they don't get the same rights. Israel is up here and everyone else is beneath them. So when you come to the Pharisees, I think we could have some sympathy for their world view. So much so, perhaps we could understand when they came to Jesus what accusation did they make?

A. they are saying that He breaks the law.

Why are they saying that? The Pharisees in Christs time, what accusations are they making against Him?

A. He was doing against the practical and the laws that were already established.

What are those laws? What are they thinking?

A. Regarding *Women*

We are special. We have rights that they don't have. We are a distinct. We have a class system. Why are you allowing Mary to sit at your feet and learn? That's not a position for a woman. They have all of this thinking. It is a major blockage in their mind. So what do they keep trying to do?

A. They try to trap him

They are trying to trap Him. How are they doing that?

A. through the word...By confronting Him with the law

How do they do that? So they are going to bring him all of these quotes and verses and they are hoping that He is going to say something that contradicts them. They can see that His life is seemingly a total contradiction to the law of Moses. Both in His attitude, in His behavior and world view and also in His teaching.

A. *Inaudible.*

He doesn't just come from a very poor area but from an area with a very bad reputation. They have drilled into their minds over time that if you break the law there is judgement. So how can something good come from this area. They are the ones that finally after all these generations have forced the keeping of the Law. And wouldn't their history of idolatry these Pharisees finally have it figured out? They are going to keep that Law. Every little part of it. So when they see a woman caught in idolatry they would say that we know what to do there is a verse. What does Jesus say? He is not going to do that. What right do you think you have to do that? Who do you think you are? He won't do it. That is not a one off situation because through His whole ministry they are trying to trap Him in different situations and in different verbal arguments and He is constantly having to find His way out of them.

So we drew up our verses. the first two columns were related about how they treated Jew and Gentile. We found that by the time we came to the new testament there is no difference between a Jew and Gentile. It takes the Jews a long time to get used to that because they don't like that concept. It is so ingrained in their minds that they have a special role and a special right based on their passport and their parents and grandparents. It takes a lot of effort to get that thinking out of them. Even out of the disciples. Even they have that thinking.

By the time you go from the beginning of ancient Israel to the end. You go from the time of Moses to the Time of Christ. When I say the time of Christ I don't just mean while he was alive on Earth. the message goes to the church twice and then to the Gentiles. Three groups. So in this history how much of this old history are they breaking? In this history the attacks made He is breaking all the alpha history. If they are going to attack Christ with that it is going to get a lot worse after His death. Now they are doing what? Because you are going from circumcision to baptism. Here only Jews and only Males. Come over here and it is baptism with male and female. Now women are going into covenant and all of a sudden everyone is equal and everyone is going into covenant. Moses time there is a distinction between Jew and Gentile and in Christ time there is now distinction. Anything else? Why doesn't gender for priest change here? There is no sacrifice. So you have the sacrifice system that has ended.

So if you want to be a Jew and stay in that mind set the problem they are going to have is that God says he never changes. And if you see the structure of society in the time of Moses to the tie of Christ, and if you understand that the Pharisees after all their idolatry have finally formed this conservative society that is keeping the law and telling other people they have to keep it, I think we can have sympathy for them. You can see in their mentality that Christ is breaking down barriers. When the women come to

Him with their children and the all twelve disciples say that Christ doesn't have time for you He is on an important Mission. So whether it is woman or Gentiles, Christ is having to reform the thinking of the disciples. Whether it's woman or other nations. They have all that thinking of the Pharisees built on the Old testament that we are up here and they are beneath us. There is a distinction.

If we were to draw a reform line. Not trying to do our structured reform line with five waymarks, but if we were to consider it as a line of progression. A different way of imagining the same subject. You could start at the garden of Eden. End from beginning. How is it going to end? It is going to end at the garden of Eden. Then within this history you have dispensation after dispensation. So you could go to this history and say it's Noah. Noah puts in place slavery. So we have slavery coming in the time of Noah. then you have another dispensation. Abraham. His economy is built on slavery. Dispensation after dispensation. You come down to Leviticus 25. Now God is putting slavery, He is making a distinction between different races. He is putting that distinction in their law to be enforced. So If we will just consider, this is the history of ancient Israel. We will call it the history of the ancient glorious land. Here you have slavery. You have distinction between Jew and Gentile. You have a system of worship set up that makes a distinction between male and female. What can a male do that a woman can't do?

A. Be circumcised. Talk in Public. Officiate the sanctuary.

Talk in public?

A. So she can speak in the public but not in the congregation with also men.

Ok I question that because of Deborah. We have strong women in that history that don't care about the norms of society. She goes into battle. So in this history we can place covenant which is divided between male and female. Then you have the priesthood divided between male and female. It is also divided by race. You have to have a bloodline. If you don't have a bloodline that says Israelite and a bloodline that says Aaron you also can't serve in the sanctuary, Priest or Levite. So you come down to Solomon and he is implementing exactly what God told him to. All the nations that had not been killed are slaves. Then you come down to the time of Christ. you have the whole book of Philemon. So what changed in the history of Christ?

A. A woman can come in to a covenant.

So you have the institution of Baptism. Now with baptism there is no distinction between male and female. What else changes?

A. Jew and Gentile.

Jew and Gentile. So both come into covenant.

A. *Also It's no longer Just Aarons bloodline for priest.*

So you have a priesthood after the order of Melchizedek. So now you have Jew and Gentile. your passport does not exist anymore. It no longer matters. So we have anything else in this history that changes?

A. That bible verse that says that woman and man cannot be baptized.

What makes you think woman weren't. We will look at it after.

A. *Inaudible.*

In Matthey, Mark, Luke, and John is just says all the people. it continues to say all. I think you have to go other passages to show that it's men and woman. In those books it just says all the people. At that beginning stage it wasn't Jew and Gentile. It took them some time to implement that part.

Parminder : Acts 16:15

16:14 And a certain woman named Lydia, a seller of purple, of the city of Thyatira, which worshipped God, heard [us]: whose heart the Lord opened, that she attended unto the things which were spoken of Paul.

16:15 And when she was baptized, and her household, she besought [us], saying, If ye have judged me to be faithful to the Lord, come into my house, and abide [there]. And she constrained us.

So you come to Philemon and you still have the institution of slavery and we made the point that you have a big book and a lot of history. You only need one sentence where God has to say "slavery is wrong". There would have been no need for a Civil War in America.

A. Acts 8:12 a second verse for a woman and a man to be baptized.

8:12 But when they believed Philip preaching the things concerning the kingdom of God, and the name of Jesus Christ, they were baptized, both men and women.

So we go through the history of the old testament. Here we have gone to the new. Then we have the 1260 and we come down to 1798. We are in a new dispensation. That of the Millerites. So in EGW dispensation what changes? So this is the old Glorious land. this is the Alpha in ancient Israel and we are in the Omega Glorious land. You come to here and you have America, particularly the Southern states, more and more making the argument. Let me remind you that when we talk about the Southern verses the Northern states and slavery, we are talking about two streams of information. One stream is saying no slavery. That is the Northern states. The Southern states are saying that if you want to hold to that position you have to give up Christianity and your bible. Because the Southern states want to cut the line of prophecy. They are going to take all the history of the Alpha Glorious land and bring it into their own. They say based on scripture. A big book and all it's arguments cannot argue against slavery. How right are they? Their argument is correct because they just want to take this history, overlay it, and drop down all of Gods requirements. I would argue that there are two sides in today's history and they are arguing the same thing. Those supporting Donald Trump have the same opinion on what two issues? Race and Gender. So if they are wrong about race what else are they wrong about? Gender. They are

doing the same thing as the Southern states. They are going to take the passages and take the history and take into your own. They are going to say Clinton, Trump. Woman , Man. She is a woman but before her came Obama. The thinking of the conservatives has not changed from old South. EGW says the mentality behind slavery is not going away just because it was abolished. And it didn't go away. It's still there today. Their mentality is the same as the South with those apposed to Clinton and Obama. The same as the South because they have all the Bible passages.

So if we want to be on the right side in our history and in our dispensation, we need to know how to read them. So Hilary Clinton. Is she capable of being the leader of the Free world?

A. Yes.

But she is a woman. She has different hormones. She is emotional. But no one here wants to argue that?

A. No.

So when we come to the movement. You are all happy to say that externally that there is no difference between man and woman in government. Be careful the argument you make. No difference? No difference between Adam and Eve?

A. At the beginning no.

Today?

A. Yes there is a difference. A man is not a woman.

In what way? What are the differences?

A. Physiologically.

what do you mean by Physiologically?

A. We are talking about Hormones. Emotionally.

So Hormonal differences? We are going to say hormones. One has testosterone and one has estrogen. Different quantities of them depending on the person. Anything else?

A. One is stronger than the other.

I am weaker than I used to be, but I have beaten a few boys up who didn't know the meaning of the word "No". When you meet a boy and you say "No" and he doesn't know the meaning of the word (In other words that boy won't leave you alone) you beat him up. Believe it or not I have been able to do that. Many woman have. So we can make a generalization and say small muscles and big muscles. What difference does that make when you are running a country?

A. Women think differently than men.

In what way? You said we think differently. I want you to tell me how we think differently.

A. Woman can do a lot of things at the same time.

That is a nice conspiracy theory what we like repeating. I am not sure it's true. You show me a scientific evidence for that.

A. the woman is really practical and has a high sense of organization.

Have you seen some women's bedrooms? They are messy. Some Men's cars and how clean they are? It is another nice conspiracy theory. I want real facts.

A. Psychologically woman and men can think at the same way or operate in the same way but we find few differences. Mainly the difference are based upon sexuality. Men focus on one thing at a time. There are always exception but generally this is how it is. Women have a larger view with the task they have to do and Men have usually focus on one task at a time.

I'm going to stop you there. I have worked in many kitchens. When you go into a kitchen, one of the biggest challenges is to create a dish that has 10 different elements. Every one off them has to be prepared perfectly, plated hot, at the right point in time that it all goes out to the customer right when they need it. One of the biggest challenges in the kitchen is that you have to keep all of these elements in your head at once. that is why it breaks people. It is tiring. If I am going to prepare a meal for a table and they order five different things from a menu, and those five dishes each have 4 different elements that need heating, cooking, or preparing, you have 20 different things in your mind because that whole table want their meal at once. You are doing it on your own. Then you are the only one in the kitchen. You have people working under you doing different tasks. You are organizing their work. You are also organizing the work out of the front of the restaurant. Every time you run out of an ingredient that needs ordering or cooking the next day, you are writing lists. You can easily be holding 30 different things in your head at the same time. It takes a great deal of coordination to do that well. If you look at restaurants today and you see the top chefs. It has been a male industry for many decades. It is a male environment. Women can come in and do just as well and work in the kitchen. There is no difference. And it requires an incredible amount of coordination focusing on so many tasks at the same time. I think if you were to go to many jobs you would find the same thing.

So if we are going to go to differences that way it may be because we know a few people like that. I think they are conspiracy theories.

A. *Does that mean that if you can do ten things at once and I can only do one then you are superior to me?*

- One can make children and the other can not

Ok so we have one difference. One has certain organs, someone else has different organs. These ones (women) create children. Men create children in a different way. It is the woman that gives birth.

A. So what I said before is in link with what you just say. The fact that the woman can give birth and help the children to develop, that's why the woman is more comfortable to deal with multitask and complex task.

So take me back through that. A woman gives birth and you have gone straight back to that argument. That just because she gives birth she can multitask. I want to know how you can make that jump?

- A. The woman based upon the environment they are more inclined to develop these kind of things to develop ability to multitask. But it is not based upon the difference of brain but type of life and that's why there are men who can develop the same type of mind. The difference is established by society and lifestyle.

So that is something that can change. That means no difference between men and women. Are there any differences between men and women?

- A. I don't know if this is true or not but emotionally women are more sensitive than men generally. So a woman will react more sensitively than a man.

So we are saying there is an emotional difference and that one can be more sensitive. What do you mean by sensitive?

- A. They will manifest emotion but also there are several elements that you have to take into consideration. Education, our experience in life. So I read that women and men do not react at the same level based on their emotion.
- *another audience member - Men might have emotions but they are taught by society not to show these emotions because they are supposed to act another way.*

So again it comes to the level of society. Training through childhood.

- A. Men have the ability to reproduce through most of the life. Women have a more limited time where they can do this.
- Both men and women can have estrogen and testosterone.
  - There was a study that there are a lot of men who commit suicide because they have a lot of pressure to not express their feelings because they have to act like strong men.

So I want to make a point about the emotions. people say woman have estrogen so they are so emotional. What is testosterone? It's just emotion. they say a woman cries and that is emotion, but when I see a man beat his chest and say "I'm strong", for me that's emotion. Pure emotion. Pride is emotion. Ego is emotion. Nationalism is an emotion. Trump at a campaign rally is pure emotion. But we visualize emotion differently. It's all emotion and how it exhibits itself is often a product of our society.

- A. *Inaudible*

So what we are coming back to is still the same argument of child bearing. When you put them together they can make a baby. they play different roles in that. Outside of procreation what is the difference?

- A. So there is no difference. There is not issue of gender. It is a matter of individual. So we invent a word especially for women because they have a womb. So where are we going?

Where are we going? I want to make the point, if we were to go from gender back to race and to make a point let's use skin color, if we said black and white. What is the difference?

A. Melanin. Hair.

So some of you have hair fibers that are flat and make the hair curly. That is the only difference.

A. During the Vietnam war the US military have a lot of skin problem because of the problem of melanin and parasite.

I go out into the sun and I will have much more problems than you will. I'm reminded of that constantly. So outside of a superficial covering what is the difference? There is none. Outside of the difference of child bearing, no one here has given an argument where men and women are different. Don't we all see that? So if we are going to handle this issue, it makes sense that we are going to compare and contrast race and gender from the beginning. All the way from Eden through Noah through multiple dispensations. Is there anyone of the dispensations that from 1989 anyone of us would want to go back to when it comes to race? No. So EGW says segregate, don't intermarry, do not make any effort under any circumstances to make black and whites equal. She says that. She also says women don't try to vote. Don't make any effort to make men and women equal. Black people be comfortable with your place. Women be comfortable with your place. Is that place the correct place for a black person to be in 1890 America? No. So compare and contrast. Race and Gender.

If we can't go back to the time of Abraham to understand race, we can't go to that history and take their treatment of gender, we can't go back to the time of the original glorious land. We are already breaking half of their rules without even thinking about it, because we already accept that they make no sense. It makes no sense that women aren't priests and other races are slaves. We reject them without even thinking about it. then we come into the modern glorious land and we see race and gender. Whether or not I want to vote or not, I believe I have every right to. Does any woman in this room feel any differently? No. So we don't go back to EGW time and accept their standard of race and gender. We take both into a new dispensation. When we come into ours we find, with race, Obama no difference. He is leader of the free world. It is a test for the Southern States of America and their method of bible interpretation. Then it is a test with Clinton to the Southern States of America and their method of Bible interpretation. It's a test for them. it is a test for us to see there is no difference between black and white that isn't superficial. The skin is the largest organ of the body. On that level there are some differences. Men and women there is no difference other than some body organs. Can we see that?

A. Before personally I would say things that EGW was saying. When I see now we have to see differently this is my difficulty because I feel like I can't know now when it is good and when it is not good.

So when she says that it's a waist of money and fanaticism to buy a bicycle, how do you read that?

A. I don't understand why she says that in fact.

She makes some strong statements about how people are wasting money and how it is a sin to be wasting money on this new craze of bicycle.

A. So it would have been true of other things not especially for bicycle.

So you don't want to apply that today?

A. But the point is how we use the money no? Maybe before it was a bicycle or today it is cars.

Parminder: The question is that our sister says she no longer knows how to read. I think the answer is to read sensibly. The question was that I don't know what is right or wrong anymore. That is because many of us have not read intelligently. We are subtly being controlled by our own society. When we read we do not read objectively. When EGW says the issue of race is important, we just ignore that without thinking about why we have changed our position. But we have taken other portions of her writings, again without thinking, and they are at a place today where we think that they haven't changed. That is the difficulty, that we are not reading consistently. It is not about her writings being right or wrong. The problem is that no one has shown us that we read inconsistently. It's not that we read incorrectly, it's the inconsistency that's the problem. We approach the same subject differently and come up with different answers. So if I were to ask people to go to the field of science, if we were to assume that half of the world, we'll just use the word black, why are not half the scientist in the world black. The obvious answer is that black people aren't as clever as white people. It's obvious. So why do we not accept that premise? Because when you go to the field or the realm of women and you ask the same question, we find that acceptable, that women aren't as clever or capable as men. We have the same issue but we approach it inconsistently. It's not that we read wrong. We have the facts in front of us, but we are approaching these two subjects in different ways and we will always come up with different answers. I think that is what people are struggling with.

A. *Ok regarding Slavery it is true today that when we think about that we think black people. At this time period slavery is not in constitution or laws... Knowing that the American are coming from Europe. So the Bible was a pretext to put in place slavery. So when we read we give freedom....So slavery was ending in the time period of Charlamaine and that this time period slavery was not upon that people. It was touching mostly the white people....(Very difficult to here audio)*

We may discuss slavery in the South and trace it back to Noah and the genealogy of the sons. I'm pretty sure they make the argument that there enslaving the same people at least on that level. The question about bicycles, the point I was making is that you do read correctly when it comes to bicycles. In fact Elder Parminder brought out is the problem with consistency. The same way we read Moses or Abraham or we read about the New Testament, Paul's writings. We are all reading them correctly but not consistently. So Paul says, I'm going to tell Onesimus to go back to his slave master. I think most of us think we would never do that. But we understand their dispensation. We need to see EGW the same way in her dispensation. Instead I think we make her our day. I would argue that most of conservative Adventism is living in her day. They are living as if it is 1888. When they do that, they think just like the protestants of today. They think all the same issues that we have today must be the same as 1888, but they don't read sensitively. So if they see bicycles they know to take that as her dispensation and find a principle. You find a conservative Adventists and ask them how they should dress what are they going to say? Like EGW. They are going to go back to EGW day, take all her quotes, make themselves 1888 history. They won't do that with Bicycle but they do that with dress.

A. To come back to the differences between man and female. I have remarked because we often hear that men and woman are a complement to each other when we are discussing this is an argument that people say to offer that men and woman are a complement to each other. I would like to have your opinion if this is correct or no?

This book I was quoting from is from the South. It says our society is complementary. Black people are happy in their sphere. They wouldn't be happy free. They are worth the same in the eyes of God but

when it becomes specific roles or job functions white people are up here and black people are down here. The whole Southern society works in a complementary fashion because they say though they are equal in the eyes of God, their brains are different and they are not as smart. If we made them equal they would fight too much and so we should keep them down here. Society to them looks like something beautiful. We wouldn't be happy with that. Their society ran well. Their economies did well, their families did well, it was well structured. They would say that races were complementary the way God made them. I would say make the exact same argument with gender. We say equality "But" different organs. God set them up and woman and men look like this. So every time you get into a conversation with someone they say equal "But" separate. And they keep saying it. If you are going to do this (say But), don't include the word equal in your sentence because this is not equal. It isn't equal with race and it isn't equal with gender. The argument with race that is if they were equal they might fight, is not a good enough excuse for slavery. People should just be nice. I would say the same for men and woman. I will stop because we are out of time. I want to highlight the point that the only difference that we have been given are some superficial body organs.