

Pastor Ray's Ramblings:

Every person knows the treasure it is to have women in your life that are loving, supportive, encouraging, and gracious. The Bible is filled with verses that describe the great blessing that a godly woman brings to everyone in their circle of influence. Last month there were two marches in Washington DC that were primarily made up of women. The marches, along with their representative speakers, slogans and signs were meant to give the public a picture of what they believe represents the issues facing women inner culture and how they want to be understood. One group, labeled the "March for Life" was emphasizing a pro-life/anti-abortion platform. The emphasis was on God creating women to be an instrument to bring life into this world and nurture and cultivation of that life through the centrality of a family in social construction of our culture. The other group rallied largely to give voice to those who feel disenfranchised and who allege to have been "victimized" by the culture of society. This march also had representative speakers, slogans and signs to express their views. The difference in atmosphere and message of the two groups could not have been more distinct. As Christians we are expected by God to influence the world around us in a more godly direction. I know that treading into discussions regarding women's rights, feminist ideology, abortion, role of men and women in family, etc. is rife with risks. I do know God communicates through His Word and through human instinct and conscience inexhaustible reams of information about these matters. Every follower of Jesus knows the differences between godly and worldly men and women. There is much at stake for the church and for our society depending on the perspectives one subscribes to concerning roles of men and women, human sexuality, the definitions of family, perspectives on human life and when it begins, whether or not we are sovereign over our physical bodies or God is, and so on.

A follower of Jesus would discern rather quickly which demonstration presented a greater manifestation of the "fruit of the Holy Spirit" (love, joy, patience, kindness, goodness, gentleness, faithfulness, self control - Galatians 5). Remember Jesus said that

we will know who a person serves by the kind of fruit they produce and that a good tree cannot produce bad fruit and that a bad tree cannot produce good fruit. I am one who is personally blessed, beyond by capacity to describe it, by godly women who are closest to me in life - my wife and my daughter. I know my life would be very different were it not for their example and grace. I also know that of the two marches in DC last month, which demonstration would have been descriptive of what they are as women and which place would have been a joy to be together with them in.



Church Fund Raising Events

In a joint effort between the Executive Council, the Board of Deacons and other advisors a new policy for fund raising events has been established. The goal and purpose of this policy is to keep the congregation fully informed on fund raising events that they are asked to be a part of and contribute to their success. In the past there have been questions raised concerning the purpose, organization beneficiaries and the success of such events. Women's Fellowship has already reviewed their policies and reported in the bulletin recently the reason, the cause and the financial out come of their last fund raising events that was held to benefit the Board of Charitable Giving. When the congregation is being asked to support projects it is necessary to have full clarity concerning the event. In review of other non-profit organizations policies it is clear that there is a benefit to everyone when complete transparency is provided. Moving forward this new policy should allow all persons and organizations the opportunity for the greatest amount of support and success for their efforts. The new form for fund raising requests will be available in the church office.

Announcing "ConGo Enjoy-Meant" Event

Sunday Feb 18- Chillirama and Some Kind of Trivia!

5:30-7:00pm- Chili's needed. We are looking for a variety of types so if you make an unusual chili please bless us with it! Of course we also need a good traditional one too. Give Mat a call, 231-414-7501.



