

WOMEN AS GOD INTENDED

“Nevertheless, in the Lord woman is not independent of man, nor is man independent of woman. For as woman came from man, so also man is born of woman. But everything comes from God.” - 1 Cor. 11:11-12

REFLECTION

Jesus accorded women respect and worth in the eyes of God. We see in the Gospels how Jesus overruled the ritual purity laws to heal the woman who bled for 12 years by allowing her to touch and talk to Him in a patriarchal Judean society, calling her “Daughter” (Mark 5:25-34). Similarly, Jesus was not deterred by Sabbath laws to heal a woman who was bent double for 18 years by a spirit and referred her as a “daughter of Abraham” (Luke 13: 10-16). Within Jesus’ inner circle of disciples were female disciples like “Mary (called Magdalene) from whom seven demons had come out; Joanna the wife of Chuza, the manager of Herod’s household; Susanna; and many others” (Luke 8:2-3). At Jesus’ crucifixion, mostly women were present whilst the men had fled from the scene (Mat 27:55-56 and Mark 15:40-41). At His resurrection, Jesus first conferred His apostolic commission to a woman, “the other Mary”, to “go and tell” that Christ has risen from the dead (Mat 28:1-7). Singapore is conducting a comprehensive review of issues affecting women to bring about mindset change on values and respect for women (*Straits Times*, 21 Sept 2020). How can we teach our children from a young age about imbibing worth and respect for women just as Jesus did? How can we pray against such violations of sexual crimes and cases of voyeurism against women in our universities? How can we pray for a world that accords deference to women so that gender prejudice, sexual harassment and workplace discrimination will discontinue in our society and the world?

PRAYER

Father God, You created both man and woman in Your image with equal dignity and worth in Your eyes.

We pray for Your Spirit to work in our hearts and minds to appreciate the value and worth of every girl and woman and to relate with them in mutual fairness and respect, for the glory of Your name. Amen

SUPPLICATION

- Pray for every little baby girl born into this world to experience God’s love and delight. Pray against preference for boys and prenatal sex selection that still perpetuates in some cultures and societies. Pray for safety for unborn or infant girls. May God protect these girls from all forms of harm and grant them hope and a future in life.
- Pray for girls and women stuck in poverty in rural societies, for those who are deprived of educational opportunities and skills training, and those trapped in sexual abuse, exploitation and forced labour. Pray for greater awareness in various social communities that would give voice to their plights and intervene where possible. Pray for child protection agencies to be successful in their effort to intervene. Pray also for women and girls who face constant domestic violence and have no means of intervention.
- Pray for every girl and woman who face challenges in life to have access to the Bible so that they may know God and find Him as is their refuge and help.
- Pray for foreign domestic helpers in Singapore to be treated with respect and fairness by the maid agencies and their employers.
- Pray for every girl and woman to be able to fulfill her potential in every social context, be the best that she can be, and have real choices that are not hindered by prejudice or breach of fundamental values.

“Whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sister of mine, you did for Me.” Matthew 25:40

If you need any prayer or pastoral care support, kindly contact the pastoral care team via:

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