

Reflection - The Outlaws

The population of the United States is roughly 49.3% males and 50.7% females. Among the adult population (not including juveniles), 3.1% are under correctional supervision. Those in supervision comprise 69% who are on parole or probation, and 31% who are incarcerated in jails or prisons.

The inmate population is comprised of 91.25% males and 8.75% females. The offenders in death row are comprised of 98.2% males and 1.8% females.

In the span of just over 100 years, from 1903 to 2010, 51 females have been executed in the penal system. In the 35 years prior to and including 2010, the number of felons who faced the death penalty and were executed were 1,234 males and 12 females. Of those women, more than half were found guilty of murdering their husband or boyfriend.

When one considers that the general population of men in this country is 49.3%, yet the criminal population is comprised of 91.25% of males, and further, that death row statistics evidence 99.04% males, one can observe that Satan is more successful with men. So now a question arises: Why do you suppose it is that God called men, and not women, officially to the priesthood?

Good question, and to find an answer, I propose the following: Suppose you have two children, and further, you have the capability of seeing the future. Looking out into their destiny you see that one child turned out to be an arrogant rebel with a 91.25% probability of receiving a life sentence for unspeakable crimes which may include murdering your other children and even you, while your other child has a 91.25% chance of being an asset to society and a blessing to you in your old age. Would you treat them any different during their upbringing? Would you do anything unique for that potential felon, child of yours, in order to tip the scale so that he may end up instead being a man of honor, and a blessing to God and his fellowmen? Think about it.

If you agree that you would treat them differently, certainly you will love both your children the same, but what unique characteristics and process would you incorporate or emphasize more, that is, throw more weight into, in your dealings with the problematic child? Suggestions I have received from proposing this scenario to others include: keep him busy; let him be physically active; keep a close eye on his progress; give him much relevant responsibilities; emphasize to him codes of honor and respect; be his close friend and confidant; repeat moral lessons to him; shower him with the knowledge of things that are honorable; re-educate him with love each time he crosses a line he shouldn't cross; explain to him patiently the details of his duties beforehand; let him know that the reason you expect the best from him is because he is capable of rendering the best.

That is exactly what God did for males. The priesthood gave men the best of opportunities to save them from themselves. It kept them close to God. It required the learning and re-learning and repetition of laws and statutes, and demanded of them responsibilities that would keep them in constant training. The rituals they were required to carry out exercised their

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thoughts and feeling to awaken in them the need for God and plant them in a firm knowledge of the Lord.

We are all members of God's priesthood: "But ye are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, an holy nation, a peculiar people; that ye should shew forth the praises of him who hath called you out of darkness into his marvelous light;" (1 Peter 2:9, KJV; emphasis added) However, women needed not to be officially called into the priesthood. That is apparent, especially because we know that when a man does not step up to the spiritual guidance of the family, or he abandons the home altogether, the woman instinctively fills the shoes of the priest of the home naturally and without incident to lead her children to the Lord. A Rabbi's wife commented that the dome shaped skullcap worn by Jewish males serves to remind them that there is a Divine Presence ruling over them; a reminder of their obligation of living in honor to God. But that women do not need to wear it because women need not be reminded, women know. And she added, "Women are more spiritual than men."

Without the official calling of women to the priesthood, still the women served at the door of the temple. Now suppose it had been the other way around. If women were the ones called to the priesthood, would the men have come to serve at the door? Would the men have dedicated themselves to God at the same level the women did without being called? Or would they say, "Oh, that's a woman thing." Many of them would still come to serve God regardless, but when one consider men's wondering eye, it's not hard to see why the men indeed needed to be under constant spiritual supervision. What better training for them in that regard than to assume the rigorous commitment of continuous and meticulous religious rituals? Thus thrusting the men head-first right into the priesthood was a great idea by a wise, loving Lord. Of course, history testifies that men's failure toward God and society is outrageous in comparison to women's falterings (91.25% of criminal are male), but we have to admit that our loving Father's placement of the men in the priesthood created for men the best of opportunities to come out okay.

How sad that something so wonderful that God did for men, calling them into the priesthood for the benefit of their own spiritual training and salvation, that many men have turned it around and viewed it as entitlement over women. In her book, *My Mother's Rules*, Judge Lynn Toler discusses the seduction that accompanies positions of power. She explains how a person may lose focus of why they were elected to the bench in the first place, and instead begins to think there is something special in themselves over other human beings; and also that it can happen to anyone in any position deemed of importance. It certainly happened to Lucifer. And it seems that such has happened to many of our men. Novelist William Young asserts, "[A]n emphasis on fatherhood is necessary because of the enormity of its absence." (*The Shack*, p. 95)