

What are Judeo-Christians Beliefs?

Excerpt From Baptist Statement on Family Life, NY Times June 10, 1998

"The husband and wife are of equal worth before God. Both bear God's image but each in differing ways. The marriage relationship models the way God relates to His people. A husband is to love his wife as Christ loved the church. He has the God-given responsibility to provide for, to protect and to lead his family. A wife is to submit graciously to the servant leadership of her husband even as the church willingly submits to the headship of Christ. She, being "in the image of God" as is her husband and thus equal to him, has the God-given responsibility to respect her husband and to serve as his "helper" in managing their household and nurturing the next generation."

The statement is based on the New Testament Letter from Paul to the Ephesians, 5.22-5.24. The Southern Baptist denomination claims nearly 16 million members, including President Bill Clinton, Vice President Al Gore, House Speaker Newt Gingrich, and Senate Majority Leader Trent Lott. The Letter of Paul to the Ephesians, 5.22-5.24: "Wives, be subject to your husbands as you are to the Lord. For the husband is the head of the wife just as Christ is the head of the church, the body of which he is the Savior. Just as the church is subject to Christ, so also wives ought to be, *in everything*, to their husbands. (*italics added*).

Other Biblical Commandments

Slavery: The Letter of Paul to the Ephesians, 6.5-6.8

"Slaves, obey your earthly masters with fear and trembling, in singleness of heart, as you obey Christ; not only while being watched, and in order to please them, but as slaves of Christ, doing the will of God from the heart. Render service with enthusiasm, as to the Lord and not to men and women, knowing that whatever good we do, we will receive the same again from the Lord, whether we are slaves or free."

Justice:

Exodus, 20. "I the Lord your God am a jealous God, punishing children for the iniquity of parents, to the third and fourth generation of those who reject me."

Numbers 31.26-31.27 "Make an inventory of the booty captured, both human and animal. Divide the booty into two parts, between the warriors who went out to battle and all the congregation."

Numbers 35.31 "A murderer shall be put to death."

Deuteronomy, 7.1-7.2 "When the Lord your God brings you into the land that you are about to enter and occupy, and he clears away many nations before you, and when the Lord your God gives them over to you and you defeat them, then you must utterly destroy them. Make no covenant with them and show them no mercy."

Deuteronomy, 15.1 "Every seventh year you shall grant a remission of debts....Every creditor shall remit the claim that is held against a neighbor, not exacting it of a neighbor who is a member of the community."

Deuteronomy, 22.2 "Those born of an illicit union shall not be admitted to the assembly of the Lord. Even to the tenth generation, none of their descendants shall be admitted to the assembly of the Lord."

Human Value:

Exodus, 20.17 "You shall not covet your neighbor's house; you shall not covet your neighbor's wife, or male or female slave, or ox, or donkey, or anything that belongs to your neighbor."

Leviticus, 27.2-27.27.4 "When a person makes an explicit vow to the Lord concerning the equivalent for a human being, the equivalent for a male shall be: from twenty to sixty years of age the equivalent shall be fifty shekels of silver by the sanctuary shekel. If the person is a female, the equivalent is thirty shekels."

Punishment for Infractions:

Exodus, 21.15 "Whoever strikes father or mother shall be put to death."

Exodus, 21.17 "Whoever curses father or mother shall be put to death."

Exodus, 21.20 "When a slaveowner strikes a male or female slave with a rod and the slave dies immediately, the owner shall be punished. But if the slave survives a day or two, there is no punishment; for the slave is the owner's property."

Exodus, 22.18 "You shall not permit a female sorcerer to live."

Leviticus, 20.10 "If a man commits adultery with the wife of his neighbor, both the adulterer and the adulteress shall be put to death."

Leviticus, 20.13 "If a man lies with a male as with a woman, both of them have committed an abomination; they shall be put to death; their blood is upon them."

Leviticus, 20.18 "If a man lies with a woman having her sickness, he has laid bare her flow and she has laid bare her flow of blood; both of them shall be cut off from their people."

Leviticus, 20.27 "A man or a woman who is a medium or a wizard shall be put to death; they shall be stoned to death, their blood is upon them."

Leviticus, 21.16 "No one of your offspring throughout their generations who has a blemish may approach to offer the food of his God."

Leviticus 24.16 "One who blasphemes the name of the Lord shall be put to death; the whole congregation shall stone the blasphemer."

Leviticus 24.19-24.20 "Anyone who maims another shall suffer the same injury in return: fracture for fracture, eye for eye, tooth for tooth; the injury inflicted is the injury to be suffered."

Deuteronomy, 22.5 "A woman shall not wear a man's apparel, nor shall a man put on a woman's garment; for whoever does such a thing is abhorrent to the Lord, your God."

Deuteronomy 22.20-22.21 "If...evidence of the young woman's virginity was not found, then they shall bring the young woman out to the entrance of her father's house and the men of her town shall stone her to death."

Romans 1.27-1.32 "Men committed shameless acts with men and received in their own persons the due penalty for their error...They know God's decree, that those who practice such things deserve to die."

An alternative view:

Jesus Delivers the Sermon on the Mount (Matthew 5:3-10)

Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted.

Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth.

Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled.

Blessed are the merciful, for they will be shown mercy.

Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God.

Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called sons of God.

Blessed are those who are persecuted because of righteousness, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.