

The New Debate: Should Women Preach?

By Lisa Morris

 @TheHyphenNews

Throughout history, women have been deprived of many rights: the right to vote, the right to drive and even the right to make as much (salary-wise) as men.

Among these rights is one particular aspect that Christians are still debating to this day: the right for women to preach and pastor a church.

With the nationwide movements to continue the increase for women's rights and equality, the case for women preachers has been reopened by many believers to determine whether or not a woman should preach.

"Well, a female pastor is awesome in more ways than one," says sophomore Sierra Terry. "They guide you with a lot of love, but also with firmness."

The seemingly endless debate about women preaching in a church started when early Christian believers read the verse in 1 Corinthians 14:34, which stated the church should "let your women keep silence in the churches."

Many Christians that oppose female preachers use this verse as their main defense against women, while other Christian denominations believe that the verse is taken completely out of context.

Small details like this have caused strife and indifference within the Christian belief and the rights it offers Christian women.

"In the Bible, it says that women aren't supposed to have authority over men," says sophomore Haley Edelen. "The spiritual ladder goes Jesus, men, women and children."

As women in today's society push forward to keep gaining more rights without persecution, they struggle to break the chains of the old tradition of male leaders in the church.

With the history of men leading the church, many believers hold dearly to the tradition of the role of a pastor being a more masculine one. However, as more movements occur, and more women are speaking out against the old rules, churches around the world are beginning to make changes allowing women to begin taking larger roles in the church's organization.

"I believe that God calls whoever he sees fit to lead and teach his people, male or female," says Jeff High sophomore Zacchaeus Humphrey.



photo by Lisa Morris

The debate for woman preachers has led to changes within churches across the country. Women are in a struggle to break old traditions of male leadership within the church

One of the main beliefs in Christianity is that God calls people to preach his message. While some Christians spend their time debating on whether or not women are truly ordained by God to preach, others avert their attention on other things, such as helping others and being a better person.

Sadly, no one truly knows when the big debate will ever end amongst the Christian churches. So the question still remains: should women be allowed to preach in churches?

Christian Women who are changing the world

Bobbie Houston- Bobbie works with her husband to run Hill-song Church. She loves encouraging women.

Beth Moore- Runs Living Proof Ministries with her husband, Keith. She is very involved in church.

Joyce Meyer- Runs Joyce Meyer Ministries as a preacher and speaker, as well as an author.

Anita C. Hill- A famous Lutheran pastor who has worked in Minnesota and North and South Dakota. She advocates for LGBTQ members to join her church.

Holly Wagner- Works with her husband to run Oasis LA. She serves as a champion for women's needs and believes in breaking the barriers that some churches have set for them.

Heidi Neumark- She's served at the Trinity Lutheran Church since 2003, and before that worked as a pastor of the Transfiguration Lutheran Church in New York.

Bernice King- One of the more famous female pastors throughout history, especially because she is a child of Martin Luther King Jr. She was an elder of the New Birth Missionary Baptist Church.

Victoria Osteen- Co-pastor of the Lakewood Church that her husband, Joel, runs primarily.



Beth Moore



Joyce Meyer



Victoria Osteen

Outstanding Women of Jeff High School

By Isabella Bungcayao

@bellabungcayao

Influential women can be found all over the world, and Jeff High is full of them. From teachers, to custodians, to cafeteria workers, the women of JHS all do something that makes our school amazing.

Principal Julie Straight

Julie Straight has been a member of Jeffersonville High School's staff for 21 years. Straight started out as an English teacher from 1990 until 2012, then became an assistant principal for a little over two years. In October of 2014, Straight was named the principal at Jeff High, the position she holds to this day.

Before her principal career, the Jeffersonville native coached cross country, track, and gymnastics.

"There is a lot of female leadership here at Jeff High that I think is an advantage," Straight said. "I can't see it any other way."

Straight says she values equality in the workplace, which can be

useful for students.

"I will say that I try to keep a balance of male and female leaders here, to make the students feel more comfortable in certain situations," Straight said.

Straight believes that having both genders in the front office is beneficial in its own ways, but disagrees that one is more qualified than the other.

"Leadership isn't based on gender," Straight said. "We're living in a time where young girls can see that they can really become whatever they want to be, and that's a privilege."

Assistant principal Dr. Marianne Fisher

Marianne Fisher began working at Jeffersonville High School in November 2012 when she was named the Assistant Principal. Fisher, though, wears more than one hat at JHS.

Currently, Fisher is the principal of the Sophomore Academy. Next year, she will be serving as the Principal of the Public Services Academy, as Greater Clark County Schools kicks off its first year with the Ford Next Gen Academy Model.

Along with these leadership positions within the administration, Fisher is actively involved with the student body as well.

With the help of Mr. Scott Endres and Mrs. Taylor Troncin-Moore, Fisher currently an advisor for the JHS Key Club, the Friends of Rachel Club, and the JHS Dance Marathon Team.

In addition, she also coordinates the daily Impact activities at JHS for teachers and students across the building.

"Our leadership here at Jeff High is second-to-none," says Fisher, and accredits female leaders across every program here at Jeff from the administration to performing arts. "I'm not saying 'Girls Rule' or anything. But females definitely have a commanding role in shaping the programs to make Jeffersonville High 'the place to be' among all Indiana schools."

Teacher Nancy Molnar

Nancy Molnar has been working at Jeffersonville High for the past 36 years. Throughout this time, Molnar has taught in the special needs program, and held numerous positions such as sponsoring Anchor Club, student council, cheerleading, and Renaissance. In addition to that, she has been a member of the Pride Team, and a manager of theater business during her nearly four decades within Jeff High.

Today, Molnar is still actively involved in Jeff High's Anchor Club and student council, where she organizes elections, inductions and events. She will be retiring at the end of the 2017-18 school year.

"Our female role models can influence any female student to succeed," Molnar said. "We are multi-taskers, we understand character...we make a difference as we continue to produce our future generation."

Teacher Natalie Bronson

Natalie Bronson has been a teacher at Jeff High for four years, and taught at New Albany High School for two years before that. At Jeffersonville, Bronson has taught biology, honors anatomy & physiology and PLTW Human Body Systems.

Bronson also is a co-sponsor of the JHS Student Council, and is a staff member of the Pride Steering Committee.

Before her teaching career, Bronson served in the Marine Corp, contractually, for eight years. Four of those years were spent on inactive reserve, while the other four were spent on active duty. Bronson was honorably discharged from active duty in June of 2004.

"My experience serving in the Marine Corps allows me to be very comfortable in leadership roles," Bronson said. "I seek out opportunities to keep myself engaged in JHS outside of classroom walls."

Teacher Jenna Felix

Jenna Felix has been a foreign language teacher at Jeff High for the past 13 years, teaching all three levels of Spanish, and is qualified to teach dual-credit Spanish 3.

Felix is currently the chair of the World Language Department, and sits on the building leadership committee, and the building decisions team. Along with that, Felix has sponsored the foreign language club, the Model United Nations team and co-sponsors the Young Democrats alongside husband, Mark.

"I think that Jeff High having majority female administration is important," Felix said. "It shows that women have opportunity for potential growth."

Thank you to all the women who make a daily impact on the life of students at Jeff High.