

Oak Grove Church of Christ Newsletter - 2025.01.26

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Sermon recordings

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Speaker-AM: Josh Vinyard

Title: Women's Roles

Recording:



Speaker-PM: Donovan Bale

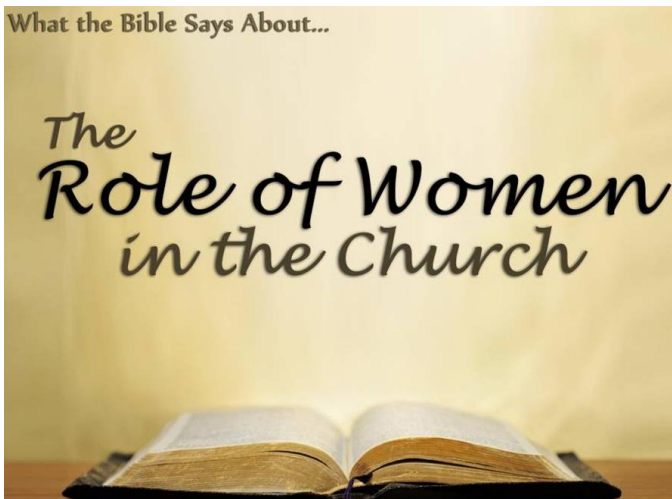
Title: When You Are In Charge

Recording:



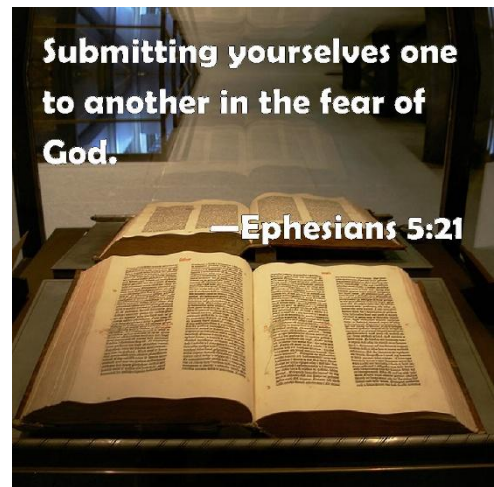
What the Bible Says About...

*The
Role of Women
in the Church*



**Submitting yourselves one
to another in the fear of
God.**

—Ephesians 5:21



Articles

For Your Amusement, 1/26/2025 By Sam Bunyard

“... if there is any virtue and if there is anything praiseworthy – meditate on these things” (Php. 4:8).
“... but his delight is in the law of the Lord, and in His law he meditates day and night” (Ps. 1:2).

We must meditate on the things of God – things that will benefit our lives spiritually as we pursue moral excellence. Another word for ‘meditate’, is ‘muse’. As we muse on profitable things, we come to a greater appreciation and understanding for the truths God has revealed to us. We grow to better identify how those truths apply in the modern world and even in our own personal lives. This is a serious endeavor that takes time and careful reflection.

The opposite of ‘musing’ is ‘a-musing’. Entertainment takes away from the seriousness of meditation. This has been a huge factor in the degradation of our culture’s public discourse in general and has born untold consequences to the destruction of the American religious mind. Every ounce of serious truth must be diluted with twenty pounds of amusing fluff!

And yet this is not a new problem. Consider the audience that was summoned with such great pomp and circumstance to hear Paul’s defense before King Agrippa and Festus (Ac. 25:22-27). As Paul gave his impassioned defense, Festus seemed thrilled by his ‘performance’ (Ac. 26:24). But Paul wasn’t performing. He was proclaiming the truth in a reasonable way (Ac. 26:25).

The same thing happened as Paul preached the resurrection on the Areopagus (Ac. 17:16-34)! To those who have spoiled their minds with amusement rather than meditation, everything of value appears as entertainment. Unless the truth is presented in a fashionable way, what is the use of paying attention? The value is not in the content, but the pretty packaging. We must train our minds to discern what is important – and meditate deeply.

Gambling Vs Love For God And Others, 1/26/2025 By Ron Halbrook

Though gambling has become socially acceptable and legal, it is not right according to what God teaches us in the Bible. God teaches us to love Him with all the heart, mind, and soul, and to love our fellow man as we love ourselves (Mt 22:37-40). Everything else God teaches us depends on these two principles. “Love” in this sense comes from a Greek term, agape, referring to the highest kind of love: a love based on principles of truth and right, and a love seeking the best interests of its object rather than mere self-gratification.

Since love of God and others must be the motive for all our conduct, how do these two principles relate to gambling? God teaches us that we may receive gain in ways which demonstrate love to all parties to any transaction. We may receive gain in the following ways: 1) the process of labor (Ep 4:28), 2) the exchange of goods and services (Mt 13:45-46), and 3) gifts (Mt 6:1-4). Each of these methods of receiving gain is honest, showing respect for principles of truth and right and for the welfare of all parties involved.

Gambling is a wager on some chance event, with the result that the ‘winner’ takes gain from others without respect for principles of truth and right and without seeking the welfare of all parties involved. Therefore, gambling is a means of taking dishonest gain. The fact that the other participants agreed to take part does not mitigate the dishonesty involved, any more than ‘kickbacks’ in a business deal are mitigated from dishonesty by the agreement of the parties involved. Gambling is an exercise in covetousness, seeking mere self-gratification without regard for truth and right or the best interests of everyone involved.

Gambling is sinful, an offense against God and a curse to our fellow man.