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The Messenger

Clintonville United Methodist Church
"Growing In Faith Together"
24 W. 13th St., Clintonville, WI 54929

Celebrating
150 years!
1867-2017

"Growing In Faith Together"

Church office hours: 8:30 a.m. - 1 p.m., Monday - Friday

Church Office: 823-3523

Pastor's Office: 823-7103

Worship broadcast live every Sunday at 10:00 a.m. on WTCH-AM (960) radio and also on WTCH-FM (96.1)

Check out our website: www.clintonvilleumc.org

God is good! And so are women pastors!

"Oooh, Pastor Keith! I'm so mad! Someone told me that women can't be pastors and I got into a big argument about it. Why do some churches think it's wrong?" That was the question I got from one of our youth. So, I did my best to explain that usually when people have very different religious views, it's because they are each reading the Bible differently. Some people read the Bible with a very literalist interpretation. Others read it with a more historical/critical interpretation. For instance, the one who is more literal will take a scripture passage in question and say, "It means exactly what it says." On the other hand the historical/critical method will take the same passage and say, "the original Greek or Hebrew words used in the original historical context had a different meaning and/or a different purpose or intention than what the modern day reader might automatically think."

In the case of whether women can be pastors or not, the literalist will argue that women should not be pastors based on the apostle Paul's instructions in 1 Cor. 14:34 and 1 Tim. 2:11-12. However, the historical/critical reader will examine the original Greek words combined with other writings by Paul and argue that women were not being silenced, but were being reminded to speak in a manner and tone that was becoming of a Christian and a woman for that time and not written as a universal command for all times and all places.

Knowing this information about literalism and historical/criticism might explain how people can read the same Bible and understand it differently, but it still doesn't explain why people gravitate toward one method or the other. That's very complicated. There's no one answer. It involves one or more of a number of possibilities.... early family influences... social influences... cultural practices... how our brain is wired to think and cope with things...fear of uncertainty...????

So, we are left where we began...with different people having strong differences of opinion on many different questions. We're all just a bunch of little Adams and Eves, thinking we've got the "right" ideas. All God asked of Adam and Eve was that they live in peace by trusting Him. May you live as a congregation in peace by trusting that the person who stands in the pulpit as your pastor has been called by God to be here for a good purpose. After all...

God is good! All the time! (Say it again.)

Your servant in Christ,
Pastor Keith



"Oh, Lord
It's Hard
To Be
Humble."

-Variety Show
May 5 & 6