

## A Publication of the Winnetka Ave. Church of Christ

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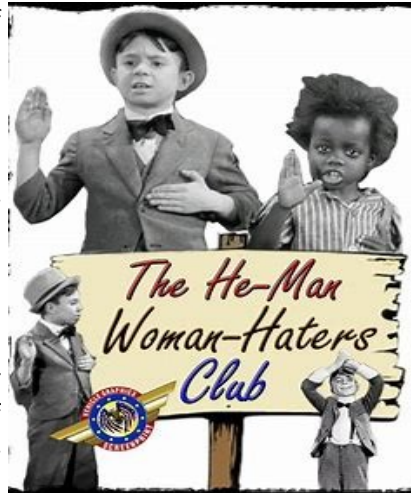
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# THE BULWARK

## DON'T YOU DARE UNDERESTIMATE WOMEN

The Little Rascals made famous the “He-Man Woman-Haters Club”. With a waggle of the fingers under the chin, pointing out as a “secret signal” the members identified themselves. Of course it is known that the “He-Man Woman Haters Club” is but a comedic take on the perception of a child with respect to gender. Alfalfa was ahead of his time, as early on he was often caught betraying the rules of the club, inasmuch as he had a soft spot for Darla. But over time, the other members of the club awoken to appreciate the value of friendship with the fairer gender. The boys’ initial disdain for girls and their eventual realization of the value of friendship with them is a recurring theme.



One may well wonder what this may have to do in a spiritual sense? While there isn’t an anti-women’s club within the body of Christ, there may exist a failure to fully appreciate how vital women are to the cause of Christ. Women may very well be underestimated. True, Paul did write, *“But I do not allow a woman to teach or exercise authority over a man, but to remain quiet.”* (1Timothy 2:12) But while limitations are duly noted, the first century church benefited tremendously from the contributions of many women; and the same holds true today.

As noted in a recent article in the Bulwark, the sixteenth chapter of Romans identifies a host of brethren who were instrumental in

the work for the cause of Christ. Of which several women were singled out: Phoebe, Priscilla, Tryphaena and her twin sister Tryphosa, Mary and Persis. All of these women were noted for their work of service, most noteworthy being benevolence. There is a certain elegance and beauty that women bring to this endeavor.

Such work should not be simply shuffled off, it is work that is enjoined to both men and women (see 1John 3:16-18). It is a mark of pure and undefiled religion (see James 1:27). Consider as well what Jesus pointed out about those who assist brethren who are struggling with any number of life issues, as seen in Matthew 25:34-40. Providing such care is like unto rendering service to the Lord Himself.

In the epistle to Titus, Paul directs that the older women are to instruct the younger women (see 2:4-5), an essential work. But so also was the work which Dorcas engaged herself, as found in Acts 9:36-39. Grandmothers like Lois and mothers like Eunice, who saw to it teach children; in their respective case it was Timothy. Women are also well suited to *“encourage the fainthearted, help the weak...”* (1Thessalonians 5:14) In short there is so much a woman can do, and they should never be underestimated. *“In the same way, you wives, be subject to your own husbands so that even if any of them are disobedient to the word, they may be won without a word by the behavior of their wives,”* (1Peter 3:1) (wbe)