

# Weekly Word

July 28, 2008

By Mary Ruth Stone

## Devotion

### Christian Equality

We were slaves to sin before Christ saved us. We were in bondage to the enemy. Those who are liberated from sin through the blood of Christ are equal in Him. God the perfect parent has no favorites. He loves all His children the same.

"For you are all sons of God through faith in Christ Jesus. For as many of you as were baptized into Christ have put on Christ" (Galatians 3:26).

Galatians 3:28 says that in Christ there is no difference based on ethnicity or national origin, no difference based on economic or political status, and no difference based on gender.

The Book of James decries favoritism: "My brethren, do not hold the faith of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Lord of glory, with partiality" (James 2:1). A vivid example of discrimination between rich and poor in the church follows. He condemns such behavior harshly. In spite of the fact that, from God's perspective, there is no difference based on economic status, the passage in James illustrates how some churches show favoritism toward the wealthy. This happened in the early church, and, unfortunately, it still happens today.

Another bias that continues to flourish in most, if not all, parts of the world is gender bias. Paul wrote, ". . . neither male nor female . . ." While there are many more women than men in most Christian churches, women at high levels of leadership within the church remain proportionately rare. Yet Jesus himself was open to women in ways that defied the culture of His time. He spoke of personal matters to the woman at the well of Samaria and told her for the first time that He was the Messiah. He comforted the woman caught in adultery and enabled her to live a sinless life. He received a special anointing from two very different women. He healed the woman with the issue of blood. It was Mary Magdalene whom He commissioned to be the first evangelist of the resurrection.

Jesus *was* and *is* an egalitarian Savior. Since we are to reflect His image, we should respect everyone equally, love everyone equally, and treat everyone equally just as Jesus did.

## Scripture

"There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free, there is neither male nor female; for you are all one in Christ Jesus" (Galatians 3:28).

## This 'n That

*"The family of God is a large and rather odd bunch. . . But out of respect for our Father God, we call each other brother and sister and know that the grace we extend to others, they are also extending to us."*

— Alicia Britt Chole

## Prayer

Dear Jesus,

Help us to love whom You love.  
Amen.

Equal in Him,  
Mary Ruth