

## **SHOULD A SISTER BE ASKED TO SING A SOLO IN THE WORSHIP SERVICE?**

Bro. Waddey: Last Sunday morning our minister had a lady sing a solo of the Lord's Prayer before he began his sermon. This is the third time one of the men has asked her to sing a solo before the congregation during worship. I feel I should let the minister know that I feel this is wrong but I don't know how to say it without trying to be divisive or hurting feelings. Am I being too critical? Should I just keep quiet or should I say something? I am sure he knows scripture much better than I, but is there a scripture that would be fitting for this occasion? Other people seemed to have thought it was wonderful (which her singing was) and saw nothing wrong. I almost felt like I went to the wrong building. I could not feel good about worshiping after that - it made me very sad. I actually felt like I did not belong there. I would appreciate any input that you might have along with prayers for our church. Jane

Dear Jane: I share your deep concern regarding the use of a lady to sing a solo while the church is at worship. My objection would be based on four points:

\* It seems to me to violate the spirit and intent of I Tim. 2:11-12 and I Cor. 14:34 to have a sister stand before the assembly and perform. The first of these passages says, "Let a woman learn in quietness with all subjection. But I permit not a woman to teach, nor to have dominion over a man..." The second says, "As in all the churches of the saints, let the women keep silence in the churches: for it is not permitted unto them to speak." For some 200 years our brethren here in the US have understood this to forbid women to fill such roles.

\* While the Bible plainly instructs us to "speak one to another in psalms, hymns and spiritual songs" (Eph. 5:19), it says nothing of individuals singing solos. This is a practice that a liberal element among us have borrowed from their denominational neighbors.

\* To have women performing is offensive to the hearts of many brothers and sisters who assemble to worship God in spirit and in truth (John 4:24). Paul instructs us "Let each one of us please his neighbor for that which is good unto edifying. For Christ also pleased not himself..." (Rom. 15:2-3). Consideration for those who are offended by such innovations would make any conscientious brother abstain from so doing.

\* Such actions are divisive. Across the country, a band of self-appointed agents of change have set out to change the faith, worship and practices of our churches. In virtually every church where they have surfaced, those who would not buy their program have been driven out. Congregations have been torn by division. God hates those who sow discord among brethren (Prov. 6:16-19).

You would be perfectly in order in expressing your concerns to your preacher. You certainly would not be "too critical." He is the one who is changing the worship from what has been practiced from the founding of your congregation to the time he began to introduce his changes. I encourage you to speak with other members to see if they share your concern. Standing together you will present a more impressive opposition than you standing alone. JHW