

Why Your Pastor Should Say “No More to Beth Moore”

By Josh Buice , May 24, 2016



Beth Moore is an extremely popular Bible teacher, author, and founder of [Living Proof Ministries, Inc.](#) which began in 1994 with the purpose of teaching women through Bible studies and resources. Many thousands of women (and men) study the Bible in groups who use resources from LPM and watch videos of Beth Moore’s teaching. With wide success in the publishing world, she is a frequent keynote speaker at large conferences including *Passion*. As a former member of the First Baptist Church of Houston, Texas (now a member of [Bayou City Fellowship](#)), Beth Moore has been a Southern Baptist for years and finds great success in [publishing her material through B&H Publishing Group and distributing it through LifeWay](#) – a popular bookstore closely associated with the Southern Baptist Convention.

For many years, Beth Moore’s teaching has raised eyebrows among pastors and leaders in conservative circles. Although concerns have been raised through the years, Beth Moore continues to be welcomed into the study groups within local churches where women read her books, study guides, and watch her videos with limited, if any, oversight from the pastoral staff. Below I’ve documented three main reasons why pastors should fire Beth Moore from the women’s ministry within their local church.

Beth Moore Clearly Violates Biblical Boundaries

In Paul's letter to Timothy, he writes, "I do not permit a woman to teach or to exercise authority over a man; rather, she is to remain quiet" ([1 Tim. 2:12](#)). Paul forbids women from teaching and having authority over men. Therefore, the pattern of the early church was established by Christ who chose twelve men to be His inner circle and then entrusted the early church to their oversight. From that point forward (post [Acts 6](#)), God raised up a plurality of men to serve as deacons who would serve alongside the plurality of men who would serve as elders.

In short, we don't see God calling, equipping, and endorsing women to teach the Bible in the context of the church (or beyond in places such as conferences). This position rooted in creation and upheld by a distinctive position known as complementarianism is not only consistent with Scripture, but in tandem with the early church's design. Beth Moore violates this early church pattern and most importantly – the text of Scripture found in [1 Timothy 2:12](#). As she appears on the platform with an open Bible, she preaches the Word to thousands of men who are in attendance at the *Passion* conference and other venues where she's invited to speak. Not only is this her personal pattern of ministry, but she likewise condones other women who preach to men as she was in attendance at Joel Osteen's church to hear her friend Christine Caine when she preached at Lakewood.

A double dose of church this weekend! Jones & I are going tonight to Lakewood to worship & to hear [@ChristineCaine](#) & be w/her darling girls.

— Beth Moore (@BethMooreLPM) [December 21, 2013](#)

The point of the Bible is clear, women are not permitted to have authority over men, and how is it possible to teach the Bible without authority? Paul forbids women from occupying the office of elder, but it must likewise be noted that he forbids women from the functionality of preaching and teaching the Bible to men – even if they don't hold the office of elder ([1 Tim. 2:12](#)). Beth Moore has demonstrated a heart of rebellion in this important area where she has violated God's original intent in women's role in the church, and therefore, should not be accepted into the church as an acceptable women's ministry (or any

Bible teaching ministry). The pattern of ministry Beth Moore has developed will continue to manifest itself in local churches so long as local churches continue to incorporate her resources in their ministries.

Beth Moore Employs Faulty Biblical Hermeneutics

The fancy word *hermeneutics*, is a reference to the science of biblical interpretation. Anyone who teaches the Bible understands that you don't merely approach the Bible with a flippant and disorganized manner and expect organized presentation and application. Beth Moore does not approach the Bible with a disorganized methodology, but she does approach the Bible with a deficient hermeneutic – one that should be rejected.

The most appropriate method of biblical interpretation is known as the *literal, grammatical, historical* method of interpretation. This method seeks to uncover the original author's intent from a literal and historical lens. This method upholds the single meaning of the text of Scripture and does so with a careful analysis upon the terms and grammar used in the text.

Beth Moore, often very animated and passionate in her delivery of her Bible teaching employs a method of biblical interpretation known as allegorical interpretation. This is a method of spiritualizing the text and making it say something other than what the original author intended. If you've ever heard a sermon preached from the text of David and Goliath where the preacher pointed out that David is Jesus and Goliath is Satan – you've heard allegorical interpretation in action. This is perhaps the main interpretative method used by Beth Moore.

Beth Moore goes beyond allegorical interpretation at times as she approaches the Bible through a mystical method of Bible reading known as *Lectio Divina*. This is an old heretical form of biblical interpretation taken from Roman Catholic mystics and often closely connected to *contemplative prayer*. This practice is often viewed as a spiritual method of approaching the Bible that involves *emptying your brain* and preparing to hear God speak. David Helm, in his book, *Expositional Preaching*, writes:

Lectio Divina advocates a method that is spiritual as opposed to systematically studious. It substitutes intuition for investigation. It prefers mood and emotion to methodical and reasoned inquiry. It equates your spirit to the Holy Spirit.” [1]

Although once a Roman Catholic method of reading and interpreting the Bible, *Lectio Divina* is now becoming popular in the mainstream evangelical community. This method sidesteps the careful and historical method of biblical interpretation as it encourages people to *open their minds* and listen for the voice of God. We should not be teaching people to *empty their minds* or *open their minds* while they listen for the voice of God. God has spoken clearly and we can see what God has said as we read the Bible.

Beth Moore Is an Ecumenical Charismatic

In recent years, Beth Moore has been beating the drum of ecumenism with fervor. In many recordings of her teachings, you can hear her categorize many liberal and conservative denominations along with Roman Catholics into the same group as if there are no distinctions or divisions. If this isn't enough to cause great concern, in more recent days Beth Moore has been crossing over the line into the troubled waters of the charismatic circles and aligning herself with people such as Joyce Meyer.

I'm excited to have [@bethmoorelpm](#) in the studio with me today. Looking forward to sharing these programs with you.
pic.twitter.com/12NIdUPYBr

— Joyce Meyer (@JoyceMeyer) [August 13, 2014](#)

It's one thing to refer to Joyce Meyer as a [mentor](#) and to embrace Roman Catholics as another denomination within evangelicalism, but why should Beth Moore be classified as a charismatic? Beyond the obvious connection that Beth Moore has with Joyce Meyer, she also leads conferences with other charismatics and engages in teaching strange doctrines. Beth Moore participated in a [Women of Faith](#) conference held at Lakewood Church in Houston (see [Roma Downey](#) promote it on YouTube) where she taught sloppy allegorical lessons and engaged in a strange “commissioning” event at the close of the conference.

1. Beth Moore frequently [hears the voice of God and receives visions](#).
2. Beth Moore aligns herself with Joel Osteen and [Joyce Meyer](#).
3. Beth Moore engages in contemplative spirituality.
4. Beth Moore is using charismatic language such as in a recent tweet about "[binding prayers](#)."
5. Beth Moore advocates receiving direct messages from God.

Beth Moore relates the story of a woman who approached her during a conference with a message from God:

With obvious anointing, she told the story we're about to study, then she said: "I don't know you Beth. I have no idea why God sent me with such a message to give you, but He told me clearly to say these words to you: "Tell her that her many sins have been forgiven—for she loved much." [2]

Notice that Beth Moore claimed the woman had an "obvious anointing" from God. To attach God's name to a special message that doesn't originate between Genesis and Revelation is to open yourself up to extrabiblical revelation and to deny the sufficiency of Scripture.

Discernment is needed today in the church like never before. It should also be noted that God has called pastors to exercise oversight over women's ministries within the church. To allow women to go through church sponsored Beth Moore studies and gather for simulcast studies is to open the doors of the church to unbiblical and dangerous teaching. Pastors, guard the doors and educate the people to exercise biblical discernment.

-
1. David Helm, *Expositional Preaching*, (Wheaton: Crossway, 2014), Kindle Edition, 355 of 1576.
 2. Beth Moore, *Jesus the One and Only*, (Nashville: B&H Publishing Group, 2013), 91.