

Men



“In Scripture, if there is a gender associated with the banner holder, the gender is male.”

Most of the Bible references about banners imply that men were the leaders when banners were used. In Scripture, if there is a gender associated with the banner holder, the gender is male. The first direct reference to banners in Numbers 1:52 refers to “... each man ... under

his own standard.” I’m certain women helped in making the first banners in the Bible, but it was the men with whom banners most often were associated.

In Western culture it is also the men with whom banners are associated most. Think about it. What would you say if I were to ask you, “Where do we see banners in today’s society?” The most common replies are: “at the football” – mostly by MEN; “in the Armed Forces” – still mostly MEN; “at yards or lots where cars are sold” – mostly MEN; “at sporting events like the Olympics” – OK, we are getting a mix here, but watch the ones who wave the BIG ones – mostly MEN!

In my opinion it is the men in our Christian society who have suffered the most from lack of freedom in worship. Cultural pressure in Western societies to be restrained and live up to standards of “normal” seems to impact us men the most. It also has been my experience that those who receive the greatest release and sense of freedom from using banners are men.

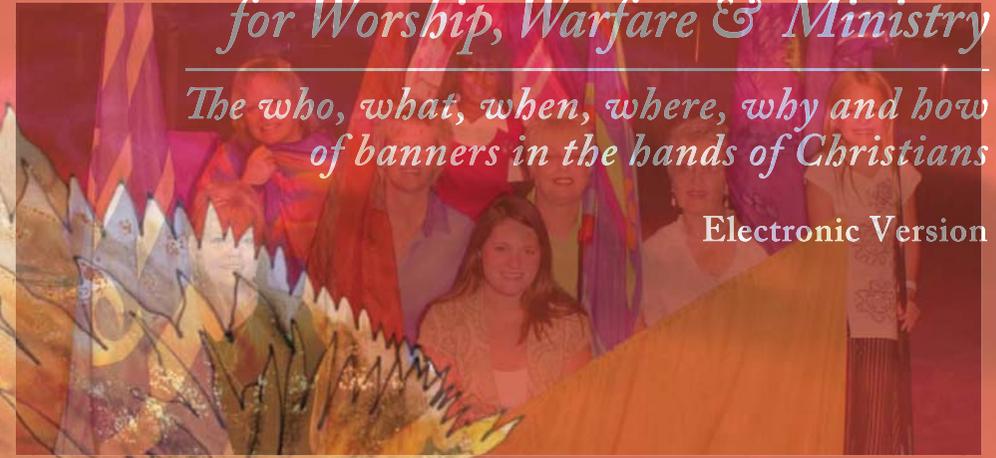
The Biblical precedent is set – men and banners are powerfully and inextricably linked.

Women

Who
Wielding Banners*for Worship, Warfare & Ministry*

The who, what, when, where, why and how of banners in the hands of Christians

Electronic Version



Despite what I have just written, I believe banners in the hands of women are incredibly powerful. Women are worshippers and spiritual warriors in their own right (though I think we sometimes lose sight of this in our culture). Making up 51% of the adult population (and much more in some Christian circles), they can wield banners for worship, warfare and ministry as effectively as the men.

In Galatians 3:28 Paul reminds the Church that “There is neither Jew nor Greek, slave nor free, male nor female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus.” I believe that the use of banners is not restricted to Jews, slaves or men – but that they are tools and weapons God is reintroducing to the whole of His Church.

Most of those who have taught me about banners have been women. It is a valid and vital ministry for women. Women also have the advantage that there are more of them already ministering with movement, so adding banners to their repertoire is relatively easy.

There are also more women than men acknowledging and taking up their role as intercessors and prayer warriors. If banners have the role in intercession and spiritual warfare that I believe they have, it is vital that women take up the use of banners.

I encourage women to go for it, to get down the road as far as they can in worshipping the Lord in freedom, in spirit and in truth. I believe men have a special role in leading their communities in worship, warfare and ministry. Therefore, I also believe that men

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down the road, women at the front, down the road we will all be when we catch up.

David J. Stanfield