



# What We Believe And Why

## *“The Role of Women in the Church”*

- Introduction:
1. The biblical role of women in the church today has been and is being challenged by many people.
  2. The fact that this battle is being fought now, during a time when feminist theology is popular, indicates to me that it is driven by popular demand.
  3. Our interest in this study should not be to be politically correct or to champion the rights of womn, but to be true to the text.
  4. Let us go to the text for answers to this important and timely question.

### **I. What The Issues Are And Are Not**

- A. This issue is not about the worth of a woman (Proverbs 31:10; Prov. 18:22).
- B. This issue is not about the competency of women.
- C. This issue is not about what society expects from the church.
- D. This issue is about what the Scriptures permit and forbid a woman to do.

### **II. An Examination Of Three Pertinent Passages**

- A. (1 Corinthians 11:3:15).
  1. There are role distinctions between what the men could do and what the women could do.
  4. The reason is not culture, but creation order (11:7-10).
- B. (1 Corinthians 14:34).
  1. In this chapter, both men and women are told to be silent (14:28,30,34).
  2. What are the reasons for some of the men and the women to keep silent?
    - a. In the case of the men, it was confusion (14:33).
    - b. In the case of the women, it was the law (14:34).
  3. Again, it is not culture, but creation order.
- C. (1 Timothy 2:9-15).
  1. Understanding the jewelry passage in light of several comparative passages (Matthew 6:19-20; John 3:17; 1 Peter 3:3-4) Absolute prohibitions or point of emphasis?
  2. Nothing addressed in 1 Timothy was cultural...it is still binding today.
  3. Women were forbidden to teach and have authority over a man.
  4. Why? Culture or Creation order? (2:13-15).
- D. In all three passages, a distinction is made between what they could do and what the men could do. And in every case, creation order, never culture, is appealed to as the grounds for this distinction.

- Conclusion:
1. The Bible plainly teaches that there are role distinctions in the church which are based upon gender.
  2. There is simply no satisfactory way to take the plain teachings of God's word on this issue, reach a conclusion exactly opposite of what the text says, and handle the text responsibly.
  3. Don't allow yourself to be bullied by culture. Stand firm with God and his word, because by it, someday we will be judged (John 12:48).