

The Role Of Women In The Church

“From Adam’s Rib To Women’s Lib”

(1 Timothy 2:9-15)

- Introduction:
1. (2 Timothy 4:2-4)
 2. The biblical role of women in the church today has been and is being challenged by many people in and out of the Lord’s church.
 3. 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.
 4. My interest in this study is not to be politically correct; to champion the rights of women; but to be true to the text.
 5. Let us go to the text for answers to this important and timely question.

I. Happenings Among Us

- A. One could travel across our nation on any given Sunday and worship with fellow Christians and find women who give the announcements, lead the singing, wait on the Lord’s table, pray, and preach.
- B. There are brethren today who are arguing that woman may, with God’s approval do anything and everything a man may do in worship.

II. 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 in the church.

III. An Examination Of Three Pertinent Passages

- A. (1 Corinthians 11:3:15).
 1. While there is much that can be said about this chapter, let us attempt to condense our thoughts to the “why” of role distinctions between men and women.
 2. Verse 3 implicitly affirms that role distinctions have nothing to do with value or worth.
 3. 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. But 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 that sustains this difference in roles, 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 dealing with the role of women in the church, 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.

IV. A Rationale For The Women's Role From Creation

- A. What is there about the creation order that provides a rationale for the submissive role of women?
- B. The Principle of Source (1 Corinthians 11:8; Colossians 1:15-18).
- C. The Principle of Naming (Genesis 2:20-23).
- D. The Principle of Accountability (Genesis 2:9; Romans 5:12).

The Rationale For Role Distinctions		
Passage	Role	Rationale
1 Corinthians 11:1-16	Not permitted to pray or prophesy as the man.	The appeal is to the creation order, not to culture.
1 Corinthians 14:1-40	Not permitted to speak but are to be in silence	The appeal is to the law (Genesis 3:16), not to culture.
1 Timothy 2:1-15	Not permitted to teach or have authority over the man; to be submissive	The appeal is to the creation order, not to culture.
In every instance where the submissive role of women is mentioned, the appeal or rationale has been to the creation order. In not one single instance did Paul base this role distinction upon the basis of cultural norms.		

- 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 or pressured by some in the church. Stand firm with God and his word, because by it, someday we will be judged (John 12:48).

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