

WHAT DOES THE SCRIPTURES TEACH CONCERNING THE ROLL OF WOMEN IN THE CHURCH?©

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One of the hottest debated issues in Christianity is that of the role of women in the New Testament Church, but regardless of our personal views concerning this subject; we must heed the Biblical teachings in the Scriptures, even if it is unpopular – “...let God be true, but every man a liar ...” (Romans 3:4).

Do women have the right (according to the Bible) to preach, teach and exercise authority over man in the church? Can they serve as pastors? Let’s see what the Bible has to say about this heated subject.

I. PAUL’S PROCLAMATION

“But I suffer [permit] not a woman to teach, nor to usurp authority [literally: ‘to lord’] over the man, but to be in silence. For Adam was first formed, then Eve” (1 Timothy 2:12-13).

It is emphatically clear that the Apostle Paul communicated in this verse that women ought not to do two things:

1) Not teach in the church.

2) Not usurp authority over man.

Paul says a woman should remain in complete silence and never proclaim authority over the man. Although there are those who do not agree with this teaching, it is hard to refute something that is so compellingly stated in a clear and concise manner. In the world in which we live with so much emphasis placed on equality, civil liberties and women’s rights, the clear teachings on the role and position of women in the church is often knowingly discounted. Be that as it may, the Word of God lives on and is

just as relevant today as it was in the era in which Paul lived. Just because our modern-day culture believe and practices otherwise doesn't negate the Word that is *"forever settled in Heaven."*

II. PAUL'S PURPOSE

The reason the Apostle Paul makes this assertion is because of God's created order – Adam (man) was created before Eve (woman), *"For Adam was first formed, then Eve". Adam was not the one deceived; it was the woman who was deceived.*" Eve was created to be a "helper" for Adam. This order of creation has universal application in both the family (Ephesians 5:22-33) and the church.

The fact that Eve was deceived is also given as a reason for women not serving as pastors or having spiritual authority over men. This is not a culturally based opinion, rather; it is a doctrinal statement rooted in the Word of God. It is not founded upon the traditions and concepts of man, but in the infallible riches of the written oracles of God.

III. PAULS POSITION

According to the Bible, God assigns different roles to men and women. God teaches us through the Apostle Paul's writings and restricts women from serving in roles of teaching and/or having spiritual authority over men. This precludes women from serving as pastors over men, which definitely includes preaching to, teaching, and having spiritual authority. Women are not to teach men or have spiritual authority over men because Eve was deceived. As a result, God has given men the primary teaching authority in the church.

I am definitely aware of our modern-day-culture and its beliefs in women preachers, pastors and teachers lording over men, but according to Paul's writings, it simply is not Biblical. That is not my opinion; that is the Word as recording in the Scriptures. I am certainly not looking for an argument, but simply stating a clear and concise passage from the Bible on this topic.

There is no doubt that women excel in many gifts pertaining to the church: hospitality, mercy, teaching, evangelism, and helps to name a few. Women are vital in the ministry of the church, but are restricted from preaching, teaching and any authoritative position 'over' the man. However, the Bible nowhere restricts women from exercising the gifts of the Holy Spirit (1 Corinthians 12). Just as men are called to do, women are to minister to others and demonstrate the fruits of the Spirit (Galatians 5:22-23), and proclaim the Gospel of Jesus Christ to the lost (Matthew 28:18-20; Acts 1:8; 1 Peter 3:15).

Furthermore, only men have been ordained to serve in positions of spiritual teaching and authority in the church. This is not because men are necessarily better teachers, or because women are inferior or less intelligent (which is not the case). It is simply the way God designed the church to function. Men are to set the example in spiritual leadership—in their lives and through their words

Women are encouraged to teach other women (Titus 2:3-5). The Bible also does not restrict women from teaching children. The only activity women are restricted from is teaching or having spiritual authority over men. This logically would preclude women from serving as pastors to men. This does not make women less important, by any means, but rather gives them a ministry focus more in agreement with God's plan and His gifting of them.

CONCLUSION

When I think of a godly woman, I think of Mary who "sat at Jesus' feet, and heard his Word" (Luke 10:39). May the Lord give us more godly woman (and men) to carry out His plan and purpose for the Church!

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