

## WOMEN IN THE BIBLE...

### Intro: - Readings:

The Jewish opinion of womanhood during the time of Christ needed considerable improvement—a male's morning prayer expressed thanks to God that the petitioner was neither a Gentile, a slave, or a woman!

OTHER EXTREME: "From Adam's rib to Women's Lib"

**women** should remain silent in the churches. They are not allowed to speak, but must be in submission, as the Law says.

1 Corinthians 14: 34

Ephesians 5: <sup>22</sup>Wives, submit to your husbands as to the Lord. <sup>23</sup>For the husband is the head of the wife as Christ is the head of the church, his body, of which he is the Savior. <sup>24</sup>Now as the church submits to Christ, so also wives should submit to their husbands in everything.

If a **woman** does not cover her head, she **should** have her hair cut off; and if it is a disgrace for a **woman** to have her hair cut or shaved off, she **should** cover her head.

1 Corinthians 11: 6

1 Timothy 2: <sup>11</sup>A woman should learn in quietness and full submission. <sup>12</sup>I do not permit a woman to teach or to have authority over a man; she must be silent. <sup>13</sup>For Adam was formed first, then Eve. <sup>14</sup>And Adam was not the one deceived; it was the woman who was deceived and became a sinner. <sup>15</sup>But women<sup>[a]</sup> will be saved<sup>[b]</sup> through childbearing—if they continue in faith, love and holiness with propriety.

**Various readings/issues – leadership, ministers, women bishops..**

**Think 'culture vs timeless truth' – hermeneutics**

**TWO aspects to consider: problem – people confuse VALUE with ROLE!**

**VALUE:** read passages and answer questions – bring key points back to group:

So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and **female** he created them.

**Genesis 1:27** –

**What does this say about our intrinsic, created value/core design as men & women?**

You are all sons of God through faith in Christ Jesus, <sup>27</sup>for all of you who were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ. <sup>28</sup>There is neither Jew nor Greek, slave nor free, male nor female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus.

**Galatians 3:26-28**

**What does this say about our redemptive standing and position within the people of God as men & women?**

Even on my servants, both men and **women**, I will pour out my Spirit in those days, and they will prophesy.

**Acts 2:18** –

**What does this say about God's revealed Word and the prophesying or "forthtelling" of it by men & women?**

**Is there a difference between "preaching" & "teaching"?**

**ROLE:**

**Read 1 Cor 11:1-16: Culture or Command?**

**What is your initial 'take' on this? (discuss) – do you think Paul is outlining a 'church' custom – we should wear headgear in church?**

**In 'Roman Corinth', in a congregation of mixed converts – Jews, Romans, Greeks – what was the protocol 'outside' of the church?**

**The culture of the day was:**

- **Most women wore some form of headgear (status of respect) – a married, Roman woman, without headgear would be 'declaring' her availability**
- **Jewish men wore headgear in worship/prayer**
- **Long flowing hair was often displayed by the local prostitutes and female 'worshippers' from the temple of Aphrodite**
- **In the Jewish temple – women would be separate from the men**

**One of the Apostle's major themes was 'freedom in Christ' (Gal 2:4, 5:1)**

**Yet the Apostle warned of the need to exercise caution – to be careful not to offend (1 Cor 8:9, 1 Cor 10:23, Gal 5:13, 1 Peter 2:16)**

**Why might the throwing off of local customary constraints be an unnecessary distraction to their individual and corporate witness?**

**SO WHAT MIGHT THE ULTIMATE POINT BE THAT THE APOSTLE IS MAKING WITH REGARDS THE WAY THE CHURCH CONDUCTS ITSELF?**

**Read 1Cor 12: Varying Roles:**

**Reading verse 11 & 18 – who allocates the gifts/roles?**

**Reading verse 25 - How should we view each other's contribution?**

**Reading verse 29 – do all of us have the same gift?**

We should be comfortable that God knows what He is doing.

**Read 1 Timothy 3:1-13 – Paul is giving instructions re the appointment of Elders – what is the noticeable gender emphasis? (verses 1,2,4,5,6,7). Equally for Deacons – what is the emphasis? (verses 8,12).**

Read 1 Tim 2:11-14:

**If Elders & Deacons are roles with ‘authority’ (God given servant authority) – how does 1 Tim 2:12 exclude women from such roles?**

**What does 1 Tim 2:13-14 give as the reason for this?**

**What should be our response in light of 1 Cor 12:25?**

**Read: [1 Corinthians 14:33-35](#) AND [1 Corinthians 11:5](#) –**

**What appears to be the conflict in these verses?**

Digging a little deeper – there was a sense that when people were speaking – some of the women were either in the habit of

chit-chatting, or interrupting the speaker – this was disrespectful both to the speaker and the husband of the ‘offender’.

The Apostle is clearly comfortable with women speaking – and also ‘prophesying’ and ‘praying’ in church. This prophesying might have involved ‘forth telling’ God’s Word on occasion – perhaps a message of encouragement.

However – Paul qualifies the extent to which a women is able to ‘prophesy’ in 1 Timothy 2:11-13 (read this now):

**The key verse is verse 11 – what do you think Paul means by ‘teach’ and ‘have authority’ over?**

Timothy is a pastoral epistle – the Apostle was encouraging the Pastor of the Ephesian church to utilise his gifts, not be taken over by stronger personalities.

Paul had already acknowledged the ‘prophetic’ ministry of women (1 Cor 11:5) – but a leading and teaching role was v different.

Paul appeals to ‘creation’ for this – (verses 13-14):

**What happened when the woman took charge in the garden?**



**BUT WE WANT POSITION! AUTHORITY!**

**Women in the Bible:**

Mentioned in the genealogy of Christ – Matthew 1

Rahab in Hebrews 11 chapter of faith

Elisabeth/Mary – Luke 1 – privileged news of Christ

Two Marys – witnesses of the resurrection – Matthew 28

**Questions:**

**How much has the modern culture influenced the way women see themselves in the Church? ('glass ceiling' for careers, equal opportunities)**

**How much has VALUE been confused with ROLE?**

**The Apostle Paul appeals to 'creation' as God's original, ordained order of things with regards man & women – what impact did the instigation of the fall have on this?**

**PRACTICAL IMPLICATIONS:**

- **WE ARE ALL OF EQUAL VALUE IN GOD'S SIGHT**
- **WE ALL HAVE DIFFERING ROLES AS HE HAS ALLOCATED**
- **WOMEN ARE SEEN ACROSS SCRIPTURE TO BE INVOLVED IN A WIDE VARIETY OF MINISTRY – SPEAKING, PRAYER, HOSPITALITY, DISCIPLESHIP, MINISTRY TO THEIR FAMILY, CHILDREN'S MINISTRY, MINISTERING TO OTHER WOMEN, ALL IN HONOURED AND PRIVILEGED SERVICE OF HIM**
- **WOMEN ADD COMPASSION & CARE TO THE BODY OF CHRIST**
- **THE ELDER TEAM THAT LEAD & SERVE THE CHURCH SHOULD BE MEN**
- **BOTH WOMEN AND MEN CAN SERVE IN CORE MINISTRY ROLES – "CORE SERVANTS" – AS REPRESENTATIVES OF THE VARYING MINISTRIES**

**FIEC SUMMARY:**

1. Both Adam and Eve were created in God's image, equal before God as persons and distinct in their manhood and womanhood ([Gen 1:26-27](#), [2:18](#)).
2. Distinctions in masculine and feminine roles are ordained by God as part of the created order, and should find an echo in every human heart ([Gen 2:18, 21-24](#); [1 Cor 11:7-9](#); [1 Tim 2:12-14](#)).

3. Adam's headship in marriage was established by God before the Fall, and was not a result of sin ([Gen 2:16-18, 21-24, 3:1-13](#); [1 Cor 11:7-9](#)).
4. The Fall introduced distortions into the relationships between men and women ([Gen 3:1-7, 12, 16](#)).
  - In the home, the husband's loving, humble headship tends to be replaced by domination or passivity; the wife's intelligent, willing submission tends to be replaced by usurpation or servility.
  - In the church, sin inclines men toward a worldly love of power or an abdication of spiritual responsibility, and inclines women to resist limitations on their roles or to neglect the use of their gifts in appropriate ministries.
5. The Old Testament, as well as the New Testament, manifests the equally high value and dignity which God attached to the roles of both men and women ([Gen 1:26-27, 2:18](#); [Gal 3:28](#)). Both Old and New Testaments also affirm the principle of male headship in the family and in the covenant community ([Gen 2:18](#); [Eph 5:21-33](#); [Col 3:18-19](#); [1 Tim 2:11-15](#)).
6. Redemption in Christ aims at removing the distortions introduced by the curse.
  - In the family, husbands should forsake harsh or selfish leadership and grow in love and care for their wives; wives should forsake resistance to their husbands' authority and grow in willing, joyful submission to their husbands' leadership ([Eph 5:21-33](#); [Col 3:18-19](#); [Tit 2:3-5](#); [1 Pet 3:1-7](#)).
  - In the church, redemption in Christ gives men and women an equal share in the blessings of salvation; nevertheless, some governing and teaching roles within the church are restricted to men ([Gal 3:28](#); [1 Cor 11:2-16](#); [1 Tim 2:11-15](#)).
7. In all of life Christ is the supreme authority and guide for men and women, so that no earthly submission-domestic, religious, or civil-ever implies a mandate to follow a human authority into sin ([Dan 3:10-18](#); [Acts 4:19-20, 5:27-29](#); [1 Pet 3:1-2](#)).
8. In both men and women a heartfelt sense of call to ministry should never be used to set aside Biblical criteria for particular ministries ([1 Tim 2:11-15, 3:1-13](#); [Tit 1:5-9](#)). Rather, Biblical teaching should remain the authority for testing our subjective discernment of God's will.
9. With half the world's population outside the reach of indigenous evangelism; with countless other lost people in those societies that have heard the gospel; with the stresses and miseries of sickness, malnutrition, homelessness, illiteracy, ignorance, aging, addiction, crime, incarceration, neuroses, and loneliness, no man or woman who feels a passion from God to make His grace known in word and deed need ever live without a fulfilling ministry for the glory of Christ and the good of this fallen world ([1 Cor 12:7-21](#)).
  - **A Ministry in Christian Education**
  - **A Ministry in Personal Evangelism and Discipleship**
  - **A Ministry of Child Evangelism**
  - **A Ministry in Missions**

- **A Ministry to Women**

10. We are convinced that a denial or neglect of these principles will lead to increasingly destructive consequences in our families, our churches, and the culture at large.