**Women Preachers – Authorized, or not?**

**Introduction**

1. As society changes, sadly, many who claim to follow God assume His decrees should change with it.
2. The role of women in society has been altered by “modern thinking.” (Things aren’t what they used to be.)
	1. Mothers and Fathers have switched roles in the home.
	2. Women are now taking leadership positions in business, many of which have even risen to the very top.
	3. We have even had several women run for president of the United States more than once.
3. On August 26th, 1920, the 19th amendment to the constitution was finally ratified (after nearly 100 years of efforts from activists and reformers) declaring that women deserve all the rights and responsibilities of citizenship.
	1. Much good has come from the change.
	2. However, through the years this has greatly affected our nation as people stray further from the design of God.
4. Through the evolution of such thought, women preachers have been sought, and encouraged.
	1. Are women preachers authorized?
	2. Has the role of women changed since God set the boundaries?
	3. Why is there not a woman preacher in this church?
5. What is NOT under consideration…
6. Whether women are appreciated and valued.
	1. ***“It is not good that man should be alone; I will make him a helper comparable to him” (Genesis 2:18)***.
	2. ***“Who can find a virtuous wife? For her worth is far above rubies” (Proverbs 31:10)***.
7. Whether women can do as good a job as men. There are many talented women.
8. Whether women are inferior to man. They are not.
9. Whether women know their Bibles better than men. Many do.
10. Whether women can teach other women, and children.
	1. **Titus 2:3-5** (Women) – Men cannot fill the need for womanly advice and instruction. Only experienced women can aptly fulfill this role.
	2. **2 Timothy 1:5; *3:14-15a [READ]*** (Children) – Timothy’s growth in God’s word as a youth was largely influenced by his grandmother, and mother.
11. Whether women can act as a servant. – **Romans 16:1-2** – Phoebe was a servant to her brethren in some way within her authorized boundaries.
12. Whether women can correct a man in humility – **Acts 18:24-*28 (READ v. 26)*** – Priscilla was involved in explaining to Apollos, but was obviously within her limitations.
13. What IS under consideration…
14. Are women preachers authorized by Christ?
	1. **Colossians 3:17** – **MAY a woman preach or teach or speak in a mixed assembly (both men and women) so as to be in a position of authority over a man?**
	2. *Nothing should be so sought after than to dwell within Christ’s commands. Everything we do should be found in His word, for only that can please Him* – ***John 8:31 “If you abide in My word, you are My disciples indeed.”***
15. **1 Timothy 2:11-12 – Paul writes to the contrary of women preachers.**
	1. Women are to remain in submissive roles.
	2. Women are not permitted to teach or have authority OVER a man.

***However, 1 Timothy was written by Paul who is not Christ. So many reject and ignore this teaching, suggesting it is not authoritative. 🡪***

1. Paul’s Writings – Authoritative?
2. Argument against Paul
	1. It is argued that Paul was a bachelor, biased against women.
	2. He is said to have been influenced by the chauvinism of the times in which he lived.
	3. Paul, many claim, was a misogynist.
	4. This is why so many reject what he wrote concerning women.
3. Paul, an apostle (**cf. Galatians 1:1**).
	1. Apostle – one sent; a delegate; an ambassador.
		1. To be witnesses of the Resurrected Christ – **Acts 1:8**
		2. To represent Christ, and teach what He taught – **Matthew 28:18-20a**
	2. ***“an apostle of Jesus Christ by the will of God” (Ephesians 1:1)***. **(cf. Galatians 1:1b).**
		1. They did not usurp this position. It was given them by the Lord Himself – **Galatians 2:7-9**
			1. This was recognized and accepted by the other apostles.
			2. **2 Peter 3:15b-16 – Peter recognized Paul’s writings to be inspired scripture.**
		2. Their teaching did not originate with them – **2 Peter 3:2; 1:20-21** (Peter places the apostle’s doctrine on equal plane with inspired prophecy – both come from God!)
			1. All of what Paul preached came by revelation of Christ – **Galatians 1:11-12**
			2. Concerning the Lord’s supper – **1 Corinthians 11:23a** (***Paul was not there, how did he know? Jesus told Him!)***
		3. How did this occur? 🡪
	3. Through inspiration of the Holy Spirit.
		1. ***“and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age” (Matthew 28:20*** – Commissioning His apostles.)
			1. **John 14:15-18** – He will be with them through the Helper – The Spirit of Truth. (He will not leave them.)
			2. **John 16:12-15** – The Helper’s work:
				1. Guide apostles into ALL truth…
				2. …by taking things that are Jesus’ and declaring them.
			3. ***“we have the mind of Christ” (1 Corinthians 2:16)***.
			4. **John 15:15-20** – Christ’s words are the apostle’s words, and the apostle’s words are Christ’s words.
				1. **(v. 20)** – If we wish to do as Christ would do, we must follow the apostle’s doctrine.
				2. **To reject Paul is to reject Christ! *(“If anyone thinks himself to be a prophet or spiritual, let him acknowledge that the things which I write to you are the commandments of the Lord” – 1 Corinthians 14:37).***
4. ***Either Paul’s writings are inspired, or he is lying. If the latter, we cannot use any part of his writings, certainly not to justify women preachers.***
5. Is this teaching still relevant?
6. Some claim that this instruction pertained to culture and time, and as the culture and times change, the doctrine becomes irrelevant. – HOW ABSURD!
7. **2 Timothy 3:16-17** – Scripture is what thoroughly equips a man of God.
8. This scripture has been ***“once for all delivered to the saints” (Jude 3)***.
9. **Hebrews 13:8-9a** – Jesus and His doctrine never change. We must not follow another!
10. **Romans 12:2 – When the world changes we must not change with it. We must change ourselves to fit God’s word, not the other way around!**
11. Men and Women: Equal with different roles and authority.
12. Many will suggest that because men and women are equal they should be able to do the same things.
	1. **Ironically, they use part of Paul’s inspired teaching to make null and void another part of his teaching.**
	2. **Either Paul contradicts himself and can’t be trusted, or there is another explanation.**
13. Men and Women are Equal.
	1. **Galatians 3:26-29** – you are all ONE in Christ. No male or female.
		1. One’s relationship with God is not determined by sex.
		2. **Acts 10:34** – Just as God is impartial, bringing the gospel to Jew and Gentile, He is impartial with regard to man and woman.
	2. **1 Peter 3:7** – Husbands are not to treat their wives as inferior, but as a fellow heir.
		1. **3:1** – However, the wife has the role of submission in the marriage relationship.
		2. **Ephesians 5:22-24** – Submissive in everything just like the church to Christ.
		3. **Equality does not necessarily mean same roles or authority**.
	3. In the church:
		1. **Men and women are still members of the One Body, and have the same hope of salvation. But they do not have the same roles.**
		2. Leadership roles are appointed to men:
			1. **Elders** – 1 Timothy 3:1 ***(“If a man desires the position…”)***
			2. **Deacons** – 1 Timothy 3:12 ***(“husbands of one wife”)***
			3. **Preachers** – Apostles, Stephen (Acts 6, 7), Apollos (1 Corinthians 3:5), Timothy (1, 2 Timothy), Titus (Titus), etc.
14. Women are not to teach, or have authority over a man.
15. Silent in the churches.
	1. **1 Corinthians 14:34-35** – Women are not to address the worship assembly.
		1. **(v. 23)** – church – the assembly (When the whole church comes together – both men and women.)
		2. **Context** – disorderly worship **(v. 40)**.
			1. **(v. 26)** – The gifts were for edification. Many wanted to speak and were doing it all at once. (*With this there is confusion, not understanding leading to edification*.)
			2. **(v. 31, 33)** – Only one person could speak at a time so as to not foment confusion.
		3. **(v. 34-35) Women – another disruption in addition to speaking out of turn were women wanting to address the assembly and ask questions.**
			1. **Not permitted to speak** – in addressing the assembly they are in a position of authority over a man. (They are to be submissive.)
			2. **As the law also says** – refers to the order of creation revealed in the law 🡪
	2. **11:3** – Man is created as the head of woman, not the other way around.
		1. **Head of man = Christ** – EVERY man is subject to Christ. He is the master over the human race.
		2. **Head of woman = man** – EVERY woman is subject to man, just as EVERY man is subject to Christ. (This is the order of creation. All must respect God’s design.)
		3. **Head of Christ = God** – Christ is God (Equal), but is still subject to the Father.
	3. **11:8-9** – Woman came FROM man, and was created FOR man. This is her created position in life. (Created by GOD!)
		1. ***“And Adam said: ‘This is now bone of my bones and flesh of my flesh; she shall be called Woman, because she was taken out of Man’” (Genesis 2:23)***.
		2. ***“And the Lord God said, ‘It is not good that man should be alone; I will make him a helper comparable to him’” (Genesis 2:18)***.
	4. **1 Timothy 2:11-14** – She must always remain in submission to man.
		1. **(v. 11-12)** – A woman cannot speak, teach, or do anything that would place her OVER a man. Why? 🡪
		2. **(v. 13)** – Order of creation as Paul stated in 1 Corinthians 11.
		3. **(v. 14)** – The matter of transgression.
			1. Adam wasn’t deceived, he was influenced to do wrong by the deceived woman.
			2. Woman was created to be a helpmeet, not a lord.
			3. The general rule (not to contend there is not exceptions) is that women are more vulnerable to deception than men. Therefore, they are to be subject to man.
16. **What can a woman do? – Anything that does not violate her limitations as a woman.**

**Conclusion**

1. It is not with an evil heart this principle is established, but with a love for the truth.
2. God is infinitely wise and has appointed order in creation according to that wisdom. This is how it is supposed to work.
3. Christ reveals the truth to us so that we may follow it and live in fulfillment to our created purpose. (*We must follow the truth in order to please Christ, and for things to function properly.*)
4. This includes the roles of man and woman revealed in the word. These roles are set, and will not change.