**The God Ordained Role of Women**

*1 Timothy 2:11-15*

**Introduction**

1. It is not uncommon for the world to frown upon a precept of God taught in the Bible.
2. However, the God ordained role of women is especially objected to in today’s culture.
3. We must not allow ourselves to be influenced by the modern thought but be continually transformed in our minds by God’s word (**cf. Romans 12:2**).
4. What is the God ordained role of women that we must respect and obey, and why?
5. What this instruction is not about:
6. Opinion
   1. Scripture is inspired by God – **2 Timothy 3:16**
   2. Paul’s writings are scripture – **2 Peter 3:15-16**
7. Misogyny
   1. Many refuse Paul’s writings on such subject matter and label him a misogynist.
   2. Paul was not a misogynist:
      1. Praise of Phoebe – **Romans 16:1**
      2. Acknowledgement of Priscilla – **Romans 16:3-4**
      3. Euodia and Syntyche noted as fellow workers – **Philippians 4:2-3**
      4. Acknowledgment of great faith in Lois and Eunice – **2 Timothy 1:5**
8. Culture
   1. Many refuse this instruction suggesting it was a part of culture that does not apply today.
      1. They represent this teaching as a part of a misogynistic culture.
      2. Such is wrong on both fronts.
   2. Misunderstanding of the nature of God’s word – **1 Peter 1:23-25** – word of God is always relevant. (If it was a command for Christians back then it is now.)
   3. Misunderstanding of the culture of those Paul is addressing – **1 Timothy 1:3** – Ephesian culture:
      1. Diana of the Ephesians – **Acts 19:27-28** (Demetrius the silversmith stirring the crowd)
      2. The one esteemed the highest among the Ephesians, their god, was female.
9. Rather, it is About God’s Will
   1. Paul’s writings are the commandments of God – **1 Corinthians 14:37** (Context – **vv. 34-35** – women in subjection)
   2. He writes with the desire to please God, not man – **Galatians 1:10**
10. What the text is not saying:
11. Women Were an Afterthought
    1. **1 Timothy 2:13** – order of creation, BUT NOT AN IMPLICATION OF AFTERTHOUGHT.
    2. God planned all of this.
    3. **Genesis 2:18** – not good that man should be alone.
       1. It is not that God was inefficient or insufficient within creation.
       2. He created man first, without the women, with the full intention of creating woman.
    4. **Genesis 2:20** – Adam could not find a helper among the animals.
    5. **Genesis 2:21-23** – God gave him woman from his own flesh.
       1. **(v. 23)** – Adam EXCLAIMED his favor toward woman.
       2. God showed him in this how important women are to men.
       3. Man without woman doesn’t work – **1 Corinthians 11:11-12**
    6. NOTE: **Genesis 3:15** – God’s role of woman in bringing about the Christ and the fact of God’s plan for salvation in Christ before the foundation of the world shows that women are not an afterthought.
12. Women are Inferior to Men
    1. Paul is in no way suggesting that women are inferior to men. The scripture harmonizes and teaches otherwise elsewhere.
    2. **1 Peter 3:7** – fellow heirs that are to be treated with honor.
       1. No doubt, women have been the objects of abuse throughout human history in various ways.
       2. God has never condoned this – likely a reason for this instruction here.
       3. Understanding – especially as to their weaker physical countenance (vessel), and the man’s position of authority (not to be abused).
       4. Honor – she is worthy of such, not inferior, but of great importance and value.
       5. Heirs together of the grace of life – both “sons of God” – spiritually there is not a difference. (cf. Galatians 3:28-29 – no gender distinction in Christ, YET CANNOT CONTRADICT OTHER WRITINGS OF PAUL)
13. Women Cannot Teach
    1. The text does not say women can’t teach, but that they can’t teach so as to be in a position of authority over a man – **1 Timothy 2:12**
    2. Women are told to teach elsewhere:
       1. **2 Timothy 2:2** – commit to faithful men so they can teach.
          1. Men – *anthrōpos* – mankind, human being. (Male or female.)
          2. If only males can teach the specification would have been made.
       2. **Titus 2:3** – teachers of good things.
       3. **Acts 18:26** – Priscilla a part of the correction.
14. The Text – 1 Timothy 2:11-15
15. The Instruction – Subjection **(vv. 11-12)**
    1. Silence – not in totality.
       1. Some argue that women are never to speak. (Extremists)
       2. This cannot be so – **Colossians 3:16; Ephesians 5:19** – command to speak, teach, and admonish in song includes women.
       3. Silence – *hēsychia* – state of quietness without disturbance, quietness, rest; state of saying nothing or very little. (BDAG) (4x in NT)
          1. **Acts 22:2** – “all the more silent” – implying less noise, not the absence of noise.
          2. **2 Thessalonians 3:12** – “quietness” – context: work, mind your own business, and don’t be a busybody.
          3. Twice in our text.
       4. **(vv. 11b-12)** – modified by “submission” and “teach or to have authority over a man”
    2. To be in a submissive role, not one of authority:
       1. In church (the assembly) – **1 Corinthians 14:34-35 (v. 23** – when the whole church comes together)
          1. Addressing the assembly where they would be in a position of authority over men.
       2. Our text – likely also a consideration of the assembly – **vv. 8-9** – instruction to males, instruction to females.
       3. HOWEVER, THE REASON GIVEN SHOWS THAT THIS IS NOT A ROLE LIMITED TO THE WORSHIP ASSEMBLY.
          1. Of women and men in general – **1 Corinthians 11:3** – head of woman is man.
16. The Reason – Order of Creation, and Transgression **(vv. 13-15)**
    1. Order of creation – **(v. 13)** – man then woman.
       1. **Genesis 2:18, 21-23** – woman made as helper to man.
          1. **1 Corinthians 11:8-9** – woman for man.
          2. **1 Corinthians 11:11** – though not independent of each other.
       2. Helper – does not imply authority, rather subjection.
          1. Helper FOR man.
          2. Woman FOR man.
    2. Matter of transgression – **(v. 14)** – as a result of the undermining of God’s order.
       1. Adam was as guilty as the woman – HE KNEW, was not deceived.
       2. CONTEXT – AGAIN, AUTHORITY/LEADERSHIP.
       3. The woman was the leader in the transgression – **Genesis 3:6, 12, 17** – she gave to Adam, he took, heeded, and ate.
          1. Heeded – *šâma‘* – “to hear, hearken, listen, obey, publish” (VINE) (“obey” – 81x in KJV)
          2. Context – heeded voice of wife, “and have eaten from the tree” – SHE GAVE TO HIM TO EAT, AND HE OBEYED AND ATE.
       4. The woman stepped out of her role of “helper,” and into the role of lord – she transgressed herself and led in the transgression of her husband.
       5. God never intended for her to be in an authoritative leadership role.
       6. Consequence in part – **Genesis 3:16** – desire for husband, he rule over you.
          1. Desire – “It means, in general, ‘turn,’ determination of the will. ‘The determination of thy will shall be yielded to thy husband, and, accordingly, he shall rule over thee.’” (Albert Barnes’ Notes on the Bible)
             1. “is better taken as expressive of deferential submissiveness” (Pulpit Commentary)
          2. This was God’s original intention, but it is further stated here.
             1. “a confirmation and perpetuation of that authority which had been assigned to the man at the creation.” (Pulpit Commentary)
    3. Childbearing – **(v. 15a)** – not simply a consideration of the penalty of the transgression as it pertains to pain, but the role God originally gave her.
       1. It was God’s will that they always bear children – **Genesis 1:27-28**
       2. However, now that childbearing would be dangerous, and painful – **Genesis 3:16** – both in birthing, and pregnancy.
17. The Promise – Salvation by Faith **(v. 15)**
    1. “saved in childbearing” – i.e. in the role of childbearing.
       1. This is part of her subjective role of being a “helper” – in part to fulfill the command to fill the earth.
       2. Her role is subjective, but does not mean she is inferior, CERTAINLY NOT SPIRITUALLY – **1 Peter 3:7** – heirs together – **Galatians 3:28-29**
    2. I.e. she does not possess the same role as the man, but she has the same promise of salvation based on the same conditions.
    3. “continue in faith, love, and holiness, with self-control” – **1 Timothy 1:5, 14, 16; 2:3-4**
       1. This, however, would also require her to submit to her God-given role of subjection.
       2. When people rebel against their God-given role – **Numbers 16:8-11; Jude 11** – rebellion is punished.
18. Application
19. Women Must Learn, but in a Submissive Role
    1. **1 Corinthians 14:35** – shameful to speak in church.
       1. Part of learning is asking questions.
       2. Not that women can’t address any man or ask questions.
       3. But they are not to do so when the church comes together, i.e. in the assembly, so as to address the assembly, but wait until they are at home.
    2. When they would ask at home, they would do so remaining in a spirit of subjection and humility.
20. Women Can Teach, but not Over a Man
    1. Forbidden – women: teachers in the presence of men, women leading Bible studies where men are present, preachers, worship leaders, etc.
    2. Authorized – women; teachers of women, young women, children, humble correction without violating submissive role (**cf. Acts 18:26** – Priscilla active in correction).
21. Women Must Accept Their God Given Role
    1. Cannot follow societal changes when they are contrary to God’s will – **Romans 12:2**
22. Women Must Be Faithful to God – if they wish to get to heaven, as do men.
    1. NOTE: requires personal faith in a role of submission to husbands.
    2. Husbands are the spiritual leaders, but women won’t be saved simply because they followed their husbands – FAITH MUST BE PERSONAL, AND SINCERE.

**Conclusion**

1. It is clear that when God created them male and female that they would fulfill different roles.
2. God gave men and women different roles – this does not imply inequality spiritually, but differences in roles.
3. The role men play is important, and the role women play is important.
4. God has ordained that women be in a role of submission. Let us respect and obey God’s design.