

WOMEN AND THEIR PLACE IN THE CHURCH

INTRODUCTION:

Does God call women to pastor churches?

Just what is the Bible's view on the woman's place in His churches? Why is there so much confusion in churches over this subject? ***"For God is not the author of confusion, but of peace, as in all churches of the saints."* - I Corinthians 14:33.**

Some will say that I have become a judge of who God calls into the ministry and as pastors of churches. But, that is not the truth! What I think or feel about any subject is really not that important, but what God's Word has to say is the final authority on any and all subjects.

As I have preached for almost forty years: God's Word Is Truth, The Holy Spirit Is Truth, and God Is Truth. The God-head will NEVER contradict itself on anything. The Holy Spirit will NEVER lead anyone to do anything that contradicts the Bible which is God's Word.

So, open your Bibles and see what the Bible has to say on this very controversial subject.

We are reading and hearing so much today about the confusion among churches and associations because a church will call a woman preacher, or she will take leadership roles in churches.

This should not be a matter of confusion. Every church is autonomous (independent), and can do as they desire; but a church should be SURE that what they practice is in accordance with the Word of God.

God is not the author of confusion. If every church stuck to the Bible we would not have the confusion there is today concerning this issue.

I. TRADITION INSTEAD OF TRUTH

A. Jesus Faced The Problem In His Day Of The Religious Leaders Going By The Tradition Of Men Instead Of By The Word Of God. ***"Why do you also transgress the commandment of God by your tradition?" - Matthew 15:3***

B. The Bible Is Clear On This Matter.

1. It is not what tradition says, it is not what the popularity of the day says, it is not what certain groups believe,
2. But, it is what the Word Of God teachers that is important.

II. ALL ONE IN CHRIST

- A. Most Everyone That Is In Heresy On This Subject Quotes This Verse Of Scripture - ***"There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither bond nor free, there is neither male nor female, for ye are all one in Christ."*** - ***Galatians 3:28*** - They were all saved by the same grace of God.
- B. Here In ***Galatians 3:28*** - He Is Not Dealing With The Matter Of The Place Of Service, But With Salvation.

III. CHURCH ORDER VITAL

- A. As Paul Teaches Us - ***"Let all things be done decently and in order"*** - ***I Corinthians 14:40.***
- B. The Bible Is Our Perfect Rule Of Faith And Practice.
 1. The Lord's church is the pillar and ground of truth in the world.
 - a. if the church is off on any subject the people will not know the truth about the matter.
 - b. the church usually listens to what the pastor says.
 - (1) if the pastor is wrong,
 - (2) then the church will usually be wrong.
 2. We must keep the church true to the Word of God by teaching the truth on every subject.

IV. NOTICE WHAT THE BIBLE SAYS CONCERNING THIS ISSUE!

- A. ***I Corinthians 14:34-35; I Timothy 2:11-12***
 1. Read your Bible. This is God's Word telling us what God's says about the Woman's place in His church.
 2. This is not popular: nor is it my opinion! This is God's Word, and we either believe the Word of God, or we accept the traditions of man and his opinions.
- B. Note - Bishops Or Pastors Qualification
 1. We know that the Word bishop can also mean pastor. The Bible is clear on the qualifications of a pastor.
 2. They are to be as Paul says - ***"A bishop then must***

be blameless, the husband of one wife."* - *I Timothy 3:2.

- a. there are many qualification here, but one of them is - more than one wife.
 - b. certainly a woman cannot have a wife for a husband
This is clear!
3. A qualification is - ***"One that ruleth well his own house."* - *I Timothy 3:4***
 - a. the Bible plainly teaches that the husband is the head of the home. ***Ephesians 5:22; Colossians 3:18.***
 - b. the husband must know how to rule his own house or he will not be able to take care of the church of God - ***Ephesians 5:25.***
 4. There are many other qualifications for a bishop, but certainly no woman can fill those two qualifications.

V. THINGS WOMEN SHOULD DO - There are many things that women are permitted to do in the church according the Bible.

Having noticed what women are forbidden to do, let us now notice what they may and should do.

A. They Should Attend Public Worship - *Hebrews 10:25*

1. This is the duty of all saved people. Women should attend public worship to learn and to receive such spiritual blessings as may come from the worship.
2. The soul of every saved needs the healing, purifying, elevating influence of public worship.

B. They Should Participate In The Worship By Praying Silently And By Engaging, If Possible, In Congregational Singing

1. These are also general duties, as well as privileges.
2. Some would say if a woman is not permitted to speak in the church, then she can't sing. But, we must interpret Paul by the intentions manifest in the context.
3. He was not discussing singing, but speaking. And while singing involves speaking; yet, technically, singing is not speaking.

C. They Should Give Of Their Means. Like worship, silent prayer,

and congregational singing, this is a general duty and privilege, and it belongs to women the same as men.

- D. They Are To Recognize The Home As Their Chief Sphere Of Activity - **Titus 2:5**. It is here that a woman is to find her chief work not only in caring for her own family, but in entertaining others - **I Timothy 5:9, 10**. It is here and here alone that she can earn a prophet's reward by entertaining prophets - **Matthew 10:41**.
- E. The Older Women Are Commanded To Teach The Younger Ones **Titus 2:3-5**.
1. They are especially charged to teach young women practical home duties, but this Scripture does not limit their teaching to this.
 2. They are to be - **"teachers of good things" verse 3**, and the reason for their teaching, "that the Word of God be not blasphemed," opens up a considerable field of instruction.
 3. We find nothing in the Scripture against the teaching of women and children alone by women at any time and at any place.
 4. The Scripture does not say that their teaching is to be done only in the home, nor does it say that they must teach only one at a time. To teach privately does not necessarily mean to teach only one at a time.

CONCLUSION:

There is nothing, absolutely nothing in the Scripture against women teaching Bible classes composed wholly of women or children, so long as they do it in subjection to the church pastor, and their own husbands. Those who would forbid women to teach women and children are simply adding to the Word of God.