

Unity In The Church

Woman's Authority

(I Ti 2:12-14)

INTRODUCTION

1. Good Morning,
 - a. Greetings...
2. Series of lessons on "Unity In The Church."
 - a. Last week we looked at "Spirit Or Truth."
 - i. **Jn 4:24** "God is spirit, and those who worship him must worship in spirit and truth."¹
 - b. This week we are going to look at "Women's Authority."
 - i. **I Ti 2:12-14** "I do not permit a woman to teach or to exercise authority over a man; rather, she is to remain quiet. 13 For Adam was formed first, then Eve; 14 and Adam was not deceived, but the woman was deceived and became a transgressor."
3. When one considers "change agents" within the brotherhood there is on the frontlines something that is moving with pace much like the "mechanical instrument" battle.
 - a. That is the "role of women" or more specifically "women's authority" in the church.
 - i. Rubel Shelly uses culture as a backdrop for this issue and racism as a parallel.
 1. "Racism was entrenched within the church and was exposed as a moral evil only when the culture around us was challenged by some of its most oppressed members... An issue this generation is being forced by culture to face is sexism in a variety of forms... Some of the overtones of the cultural pressures related to sexism are challenging the church to rethink its traditional posture about women.
(<http://goo.gl/ECnVEy>)
 - ii. Max Lucado wrote on eldership and their leadership. Under the heading "The eldership is a limited ministry" he wrote...
 1. "The context of 1 Timothy 2:11—14 implies that the women are to be under the leadership of the men. They are equal in blessing and responsibility – burden and promise, but the leadership of the church falls squarely on the shoulders of men... That is not to say women shouldn't have leadership roles and leadership responsibilities or, in my opinion, occasionally publicly teach the church."
4. Let us today examine this topic in light of the fact that it has caused such division in the church.

I. The Issue

- A. What the issue is not
 1. It is not about the worth of a woman.
 - i. **Pr 31:10** "An excellent wife who can find? She is far more precious than jewels."
 - ii. **Pr 18:22** "He who finds a wife finds a good thing and obtains favor from the LORD."

¹ All Scriptures are taken from the ESV unless otherwise noted. If other translations are used this is not necessarily an endorsement of the translation.

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2. It is not about the capability of women.
 - i. **Ro 16:1** “I commend to you our sister Phoebe, a servant of the church at Cenchreae”
 3. It is not about what society expects from the church.
 - i. **I Co 1:26-27** “For consider your calling, brothers: not many of you were wise according to worldly standards, not many were powerful, not many were of noble birth. 27 But God chose what is foolish in the world to shame the wise; God chose what is weak in the world to shame the strong”
- B. What the issue is about
1. It is about what the Scriptures permit and forbid women to do.
 - i. **I Co 11:3; 14:34; I Ti 2:9-15**
- C. Thus...
1. As we can see this topic as little to do with most of the “reasons” used by people to justify women taking leadership roles in the church.

II. God’s Word On This Subject

- A. God’s teachings to the Corinthians
1. Paul wrote to the Corinthians based on a series of questions ask of him concerning some of the practices that were being done by the church there.
 - i. He deals with a variety of issues.
 - a. One of those issues was whether or not women should wear a veil in public specifically worship.
 - b. Another issue was whether or not women should prophecy or preaching during the assembling of the saints.
 2. Paul answered the issue of the veil by addressing authority.
 - i. **I Co 11:3** “But I want you to know that the head of every man is Christ, the head of woman is man, and the head of Christ is God.” (NKJV)
 - a. This establishes that God has deemed men as the ones to have authority over women.
 1. Make sure that if your translation has “husband” and “wife” you make a note that this is not an accurate translation.
 - i. The Greek can mean either or but the context here cannot be husband and wife but rather man and woman. The ones who put husband and wife are not even consistent throughout this text either.
 3. Paul answered the issue of women prophesying or preaching while assembled with the saints with strong words...be silent.
 - i. **I Co 14:34** “the women should keep silent in the churches. For they are not permitted to speak, but should be in submission, as the Law also says.”
 - a. This passage establishes the role women are to have concerning teaching/preaching during the assembly as the word “silent” here literally means to make no noise.

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B. God's Teachings To Timothy

1. Paul wrote to Timothy to let him know what to preach specifically "how one ought to behave in the house of God."
 - i. Thus Paul covered a variety of issues based on the conduct of Christians.
 - a. One such issue dealt with authority and teaching of the women to men.
2. Paul answered the issue of women teaching men with authority.
 - i. **I Ti 2:12-14** "I do not permit a woman to teach or to exercise authority over a man; rather, she is to remain quiet. 13 For Adam was formed first, then Eve; 14 and Adam was not deceived, but the woman was deceived and became a transgressor."
 - a. This passage establishes that Christian women were not to teach with authority Christian men.
 1. The Greek word is not the same here as it was in **I Co 14:34**. This word means quite not silent.
 - i. The reason for quite not silent is that it is dealing with different issues.
 - a. In I Corinthians the passage is dealing with the assembly of the saints.
 - b. In I Timothy the passage is dealing with general Christian living.
 2. Women can clearly teach men.
 - i. **Ep 5:19; Co 3:16; Ac 18:26**
 3. Women cannot teach men by having authority over them.
 - b. We also are given insight into the reason why man's role is based in leadership and women's is not.
 1. First man was created before women.
 2. Second woman was deceived not man.
 - i. This is not saying women are more easily deceived than men but simply that Eve was deceived and Adam wasn't.
 - ii. Even if Eve hadn't been deceived women would still be under the authority of men based on creation.

C. Thus...

1. One can clearly see that Scriptures are made plain women are not to have authority over man and as such they cannot be leaders over men.

III. Woman's Role

A. First they, like men, are to be active not passive in their Christianity

1. That are to...
 - i. Live righteous lives.
 - a. **I Jn 1:7** "But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus his Son cleanses us from all sin."

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- ii. Grow spiritual.
 - a. **II Pt 3:18** “But grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. To him be the glory both now and to the day of eternity. Amen.”
- iii. Work for the Lord by...
 - a. Edifying the brotherhood.
 - 1. **Ep 4:15-16** “Rather, speaking the truth in love, we are to grow up in every way into him who is the head, into Christ, 16 from whom the whole body, joined and held together by every joint with which it is equipped, when each part is working properly, makes the body grow so that it builds itself up in love.”
 - b. Teaching children especially their own.
 - 1. **II Ti 1:5** “I am reminded of your sincere faith, a faith that dwelt first in your grandmother Lois and your mother Eunice and now, I am sure, dwells in you as well.”
 - c. Teaching other women.
 - 1. **Ti 2:3-5** “Older women likewise are to be reverent in behavior, not slanderers or slaves to much wine. They are to teach what is good, 4 and so train the young women to love their husbands and children, 5 to be self-controlled, pure, working at home, kind, and submissive to their own husbands, that the word of God may not be reviled.”
 - d. Encouraging others in the brotherhood.
 - 1. **I Th 5:14** “And we urge you, brothers, admonish the idle, encourage the fainthearted, help the weak, be patient with them all.”
 - e. Being evangelistic.
 - 1. **Ac 8:3-4** “But Saul was ravaging the church, and entering house after house, he dragged off men and women and committed them to prison. 4 Now those who were scattered went about preaching the word.”
 - f. Being great examples for others to see.
 - 1. **Mt 5:16** “In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven.”
 - g. Hosting Bible studies in their homes.
 - 1. **I Co 16:19** “The churches of Asia send you greetings. Aquila and Prisca, together with the church in their house, send you hearty greetings in the Lord.”
 - h. Being benevolent.
 - 1. **Pr 31:20** “She opens her hand to the poor and reaches out her hands to the needy.”

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- B. Second they, like men, are to be active not passive in the worshipping God
 - 1. In the assembly of the saints women are to...
 - i. Partake in every aspect of the worship just without leading those acts.
 - a. **Ac 20:7; I Co 14:26; Ep 5:19**
- C. There are a lot of example of great biblical women who righteously worshiped and worked hard for God
 - 1. Phoebe
 - i. **Ro 16:1**
 - 2. Priscilla
 - i. **Ro 3:3-5; Ac 18:25-26**
 - 3. Tabitha
 - i. **Ac 9:36**
 - 4. Trphena & Trphosa
 - i. **Ro 16:2**
- D. Thus...
 - 1. As any proper bible student can clearly see the role of women in the church is of utmost importance.

CONCLUSION

- 1. Women are the backbone to any successful and righteous congregation.
 - a. Though God has assigned different roles to men and women that doesn't mean women are of any less importance.
 - b. Solomon had it right their worth is far above rubies.
 - i. **Pr 31:10**
- 2. Question: As a woman of God are you living up to the role you were created with and as a man are you help the women in your life to live up to the role they were created for?
 - a. My prayer is that both are doing as they should.
 - b. If you are not make the change now and correct it before it is too late.
- 3. Invitation
 - a. For those that are Christians but are not living for Christ repent by confessing your sins to God that He may forgive you and dedicate your life/time back to Him.
 - i. **I Jn 1:7, 9** "But if we walk in the light as He is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus Christ His Son cleanses us from all sin...9 If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness."
 - b. For those that are not Christians or for those that think they are Christians and want to know for sure notice what is required to become a child of God or Christian according to God and God only.
 - i. Hear/Study **Rom 10:17; II Tim 2:15**
 - ii. Have Faith In Jesus **Jn 3:16; 8:24**
 - iii. Repent/Turn To God **Ac 17:30; Lk 24:47**
 - iv. Confess Jesus As Lord **Mt 10:32; Rom 10:9**
 - v. Immersed For The Forgiveness of Sins **Ac 2:38; 22:16; I Pt 3:21**
 - vi. Live A Faithful Life **I Jn 1:7; Eph 5:8**