

# Fundamentals Of The Church

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## Women's Roles In The Church

(I Co 11:3)

### INTRODUCTION

1. Good Morning
  - a. Greeting
2. Series of lessons on "Fundamentals Of The Church"
  - a. This morning we will be looking at a "hot topic..."
    - i. "Women's Roles In The Church"
3. Let us look a close biblical study of this most important subject.
  - a. The role of women in the church has changed significantly over the years.
  - b. In fact Jeanene Reese just published a book called "Bound & Determined"
    - i. In an article in the "Christian Chronicle" they wrote concerning the book "Reese wisely avoids a narrow-minded proof-text tactic."
    - ii. Translation...she doesn't need scripture to say she is right with God.
    - iii. The book is all about getting women to go beyond that which God has authorized them to do.
      1. It's no wonder she is a professor at Abilene Christian University if not the most liberal it is in the top three.
      2. A school that now promotes fellowship with denominations, thus seeing no need even in teaching baptism as necessary anymore.
  - c. As the article put it this is a "lightning-rod issue."
4. So let us see what the Bible says about the subject.

### I. What The Issues Are & Are Not

- A. This issue is not about the worth of a woman
  1. **Pr 31:10** "Who can find a virtuous wife? For her worth is far above rubies."
  2. **Pr 18:22** "He who finds a wife finds a good thing, And obtains favor from the LORD."
- B. This issue is not about the capability of women
  1. **Ro 16:1** "I commend to you Phoebe our sister, who is a servant of the church in Cenchrea"
- C. This issue is not about what society expects from the church
  1. **I Co 1:26-27** "For you see your calling, brethren, that not many wise according to the flesh, not many mighty, not many noble, are called. 27 But God has chosen the foolish things of the world to put to shame the wise, and God has chosen the weak things of the world to put to shame the things which are mighty"
- D. This issue is about what the Scriptures permit and forbid a woman to do
  1. **I Co 11:3, 15; 14:34; I Ti 2:9-15**

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## II. What Does The Bible Teach Concerning The Role Of Women In The Church?

### A. **I Corinthians 11:3, 15**

1. "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. 15 But if a woman has long hair, it is a glory to her; for her hair is given to her for a covering."
  - i. There are distinctions between the men's roles & the women's.
  - ii. Just as in the Godhead there are distinctions or in the fact of something as simple as hair there are distinctions made.
2. However notice this is not due to culture but creation.
  - i. **I Co 11:7** "For a man indeed ought not to cover his head, since he is the image and glory of God; but woman is the glory of man."

### B. **I Corinthians 14:34**

1. "Let your women keep silent in the churches, for they are not permitted to speak; but they are to be submissive, as the law also says."
  - i. Remember that in this chapter both men and women are told to be silent.
    - a. **I Co 14:28, 30, 34**
  - ii. The Greek word here means literally no speaking ie no sound.
2. In the case of the men they were to be silent because of the confusion they were causing.
  - i. **I Co 14:33** "For God is not the author of confusion but of peace, as in all the churches of the saints."
3. In the case of women it was law.
  - i. **I Co 14:34** "...as the law also says."
  - ii. **Gn 3:16** "To the woman He said: "I will greatly multiply your sorrow and your conception; In pain you shall bring forth children; Your desire shall be for your husband, And he shall rule over you."
4. Again it is not culture but creation.

### C. **I Timothy 2:11-12**

1. "Let a woman learn in silence with all submission. 12 And I do not permit a woman to teach or to have authority over a man, but to be in silence."
  - i. The Greek word for silence here is different from that of **I Co 14:34**.
    - a. The word here means quietness not, no speaking as seen before.
  - ii. Thus we can see then that it is not saying a women cannot teach a man at all (**Ep 5:19; Co 3:16**) but that when doing so she is not to have authority over him.
    - a. How is this done?
      1. Just like when we sing and we teach one another in song my wife has not usurped her authority in doing so, or when a daughter teaches her dad something she has not "necessarily" usurped authority.

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2. **Ac 18:26** "So he began to speak boldly in the synagogue. When Aquila and Priscilla heard him, they took him aside and explained to him the way of God more accurately."
2. Notice once again this is not culture it's creation.
  - i. **I Ti 2:13-15** "For Adam was formed first, then Eve. 14 And Adam was not deceived, but the woman being deceived, fell into transgression. 15 Nevertheless she will be saved in childbearing if they continue in faith, love, and holiness, with self-control."

## III. Women Are A Valuable Certainty

- A. Some have misunderstood the church & God on this reality
  1. Some have concluded that because women have a primary domestic role and are expressly limited in the spiritual realm of leadership regarding the church that women are to be spiritually passive.
  2. This is not true women must...
    - 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 Christ His Son cleanses us from all sin."
    - ii. Grow spiritually
      - 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 forever. Amen."
    - iii. Not cause division
      - a. **I Co 1:10** "Now I plead with you, brethren, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that you all speak the same thing, and that there be no divisions among you, but that you be perfectly joined together in the same mind and in the same judgment."
    - iv. Work for the Lord
      - a. **Co 1:10** "that you may walk worthy of the Lord, fully pleasing Him, being fruitful in every good work and increasing in the knowledge of God"
        1. **Ep 2:10**
  3. All women will appear before the judgment seat as well.
    - i. **II Co 5:10** "For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, that each one may receive the things done in the body, according to what he has done, whether good or bad."
  4. Women are not to be spiritually passive but rather active.

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- B. The N.T. is full of women who have strengthened both men & the church
1. Phoebe – a servant of the church whom Paul admired.
    - i. **Ro 16:1**
  2. Priscilla – fellow worker with Paul & teacher w/ her husband.
    - i. **Ro 3:3-5; Ac 18:25-26**
  3. Dorcas/Tabitha – full of good works & charitable deeds
    - i. **Ac 9:36**
  4. Tryphena & Tryphosa – Notice what Barnes says about them.
    - i. **Ro 16:12**
    - ii. "These names, with the participle rendered 'who labour,' are in the feminine gender, and these were probably two holy women who...ministered to the sick, and who, with Persis, thus by example, and perhaps by instruction, labored to promote the spread of Christianity. Pious females then, as now, were able to do much in their proper sphere to extend the truths and blessings of the gospel" (from Barnes' Notes, Electronic Database Copyright © 1997, 2003, 2005, 2006 by BibleSoft, Inc. All rights reserved.)

## IV. What Can Women Do In The Church?

- A. In public worship women are to...
1. First assembly w/ the saints
    - i. **He 10:25** "not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as is the manner of some, but exhorting one another, and so much the more as you see the Day approaching."
    - ii. **I Co 14:23** "Therefore **if the whole church comes together in one place**, and all speak with tongues, and there come in those who are uninformed or unbelievers, will they not say that you are out of your mind? [emphasis mine]"
  2. Partake in every aspect of the worship yet w/o leading over men
    - i. **Ac 20:7; I Co 14:26; Ep 5:19; I Co 16:1-2**
- B. In everyday life women are to...
1. Edify/spiritually build up the brotherhood
    - i. **Ep 4:15-16** "but, speaking the truth in love, may grow up in all things into Him who is the head—Christ— 16 from whom the whole body, joined and knit together by what every joint supplies, according to the effective working by which every part does its share, causes growth of the body for the edifying of itself in love."
  2. Teach children especially their own
    - i. **II Ti 1:5** "when I call to remembrance the genuine faith that is in you, which dwelt first in your grandmother Lois and your mother Eunice, and I am persuaded is in you also."
  3. Teach other women (Older to younger)
    - i. **Ti 2:3-5** "the older women likewise, that they be reverent in behavior, not slanderers, not given to much wine, teachers of good things— 4 that they admonish the young women to love their husbands, to love their children, 5 to be discreet, chaste, homemakers, good, obedient to their own husbands, that the word of God may not be blasphemed."

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4. Encourage others in the brotherhood
  - i. **I Th 5:14** "Now we exhort you, brethren, warn those who are unruly, comfort the fainthearted, uphold the weak, be patient with all."
5. Be evangelistic/teachers
  - i. **Ac 8:3-4** "As for Saul, he made havoc of the church, entering every house, and dragging off men and women, committing them to prison. 4 Therefore those who were scattered went everywhere preaching the word."
6. Be good examples
  - i. **Mt 5:16** "Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven."
7. Host bible studies in their homes
  - i. **I Co 16:19** "The churches of Asia greet you. Aquila and Priscilla greet you heartily in the Lord, with the church that is in their house."
8. Be benevolent (a natural trait)
  - i. **Pr 31:20** "She extends her hand to the poor, Yes, she reaches out her hands to the needy."

## CONCLUSION

1. Women in the church are very important and truly are the backbone of the church.
  - a. Just because God has assigned to women a specific role that contains limitations in relation to men, does not mean that women are any less important.
  - b. Their worth is far above rubies – **Pr 31:10**
2. So women here today remember you are to be Christians too which means Christ-like.
  - a. Remember, “a women who fears the Lord, she shall be praised” - **Pr 31:30**
3. Invitation