

Women in Ministry!

1 Timothy 2v11+12... 'Let the woman learn in silence with all subjection. But I suffer not a woman to teach, nor to usurp authority over the man, but to be in silence.'

The following figures I'm about to give you are now a little out of date, **they are much 'higher' these days**, but you'll get the gist...

- 1) There are more than 4,000 licensed & ordained women in the AOG
- 2) There are over 1,225 ordained Southern Baptist women
- 3) The United Methodist Church has ordained women since 1956 & today has more than 4,700 women 'clergy'
- 4) The Presbyterian Church (USA) has over 2,400 female leaders
- 5) The United Church of Christ has over 1,800 female leaders
- 6) The Evangelical Lutheran Church in America has over 1,300 ordained women
- 7) As of 1994, 16 of the 30 independent Anglican communions around the world have approved ordination of women priests
- 8) The Episcopal Church in the USA has more than 1,000 women priests
- 9) The General Synod of the 'mother church' in England endorsed the concept of female priests in 1993
- 10) The church of Scotland approved ordination of women in 1968 & now has over 100
- 11) Leaders of YWAM (Youth with a Mission) appointed their first female director in March 2000? To oversee a 200 member staff in Switzerland. Loren Cunningham spoke out strongly against what he called 'cultural bias' against women & said that God's blessing might be removed if YWAM did not commission female leaders!
- 12) Women now comprise at least a third of the student population at the leading interdenominational divinity schools at Yale & Harvard
- 13) The National Council of Churches survey showed that 84 of the 166 denominations now ordain women

The reason why the woman's role in the church is **SUCH AN ISSUE TODAY** is because the 'world' has had such an influence on the church rather than the church influencing the world!

The feminist movement along with marketing, advertising & the rest of the media has bombarded us 24 hours a day with brainwashing that men ought to be more like women & women ought to be more like men; *we are the same* the world tells us; there is NO difference!

The above facts are evidence of the apostasy of the hour! Men & women in the world, having rejected Bible truth, are confused about the most basic things. Many men are trying to be like women in dress & manner, while many women are demanding the right to be like men, to dress like men, to do the same work as men, to play the same sports as men, to fight in armies like men. They want equal pay for equal work; they are demanding a man's place in society, at home & in the church!

Sadly the church is *always* affected by society. Thus the rebellion of women in the world is causing similar problems in the church, & we find women demanding leadership roles in many Christian groups!

We do not realise how powerful the TV is when it comes to propaganda & brainwashing us into thinking like the devil wants us to think. The only way to combat the enemy is by reading, studying & living the Scriptures, *which most Christians DON'T do!*

For 1900 years the woman's role was never an issue but with the invention of TV & such likes, now women want equal rights on everything, we are all the same & there is NO DIFFERENCE!

BUT the Bible, GOD'S WORD, says THERE IS A DIFFERENCE! We are going to look at this over the next few studies!

The Bible speaks too clearly on this subject for there to be any confusion. The problem is that churches too often are looking to sources, *other than* the Bible for guidance! ‘*Well the church down the road believes women should have a leadership role & look how big that church is; they have over 400 members, they must be right!*’ REALLY?

God loves women as much as He does men. Women are as important to the home, church & society as men are. In Jesus Christ, women enjoy the same spiritual position & blessings before God as men do.

This does not mean, though, there is no difference in men & women in their appearance & in their roles.

There is a basic truth which needs to be restated in the church & society today; MEN & WOMEN **ARE DIFFERENT!**

Men & women were made for different roles. The NT affirms that MEN are to be the leaders in the home, church & society. Women were not created to rule these divine institutions; MEN were!

It is interesting to note the following FACTS FROM the Bible...

- 1) Adam was FIRST formed THEN Eve!
- 2) Christ didn't choose one woman when He chose the 12 apostles, they were ALL men
- 3) Not one woman was used to record any book of the Scriptures
- 4) Under the Law ‘Priests’ were restricted to males from the tribe of Levi
- 5) Bishops, elders, pastors & deacons are ALL male roles according to Scripture
- 6) There is no such thing as a ‘deaconess’ in the Scriptures!
- 7) There is NOT one woman preacher mentioned in the NT church according to the Scriptures!
- 8) Not one sermon preached in the Bible was preached by a woman!
- 9) In Acts 6v1-4 when the 12 apostles chose 7 people to take some of the burden from them so they could continue to give themselves to prayer & to the ministry of the word, they chose 7 MEN
- 10) Moses was told to gather 70 MEN - **And the LORD said unto Moses, Gather unto me seventy men of the elders of Israel, whom thou knowest to be the elders of the people, and officers over them; and bring them unto the tabernacle of the congregation, that they may stand there with thee. And I will come down and talk with thee there: and I will take of the spirit which is upon thee, and will put it upon them; and they shall bear the burden of the people with thee, that thou bear it not thyself alone.**
- 11) Moses was told to send out MEN to spy out the land of Canaan – Num 13v1-3 - **And the LORD spake unto Moses, saying, Send thou men, that they may search the land of Canaan, which I give unto the children of Israel: of every tribe of their fathers shall ye send a man, every one a ruler among them. And Moses by the commandment of the LORD sent them from the wilderness of Paran: all those men were heads of the children of Israel.**
- 12) The serpent was in the garden before Adam but he never tried to deceive Adam, he went straight for the woman when she came onto the scene, why? *We shall look at this a little later!*
- 13) When the Bible talks about the gathering together of the saints i.e. in the church, the assembly, it always insists upon male leadership & that has never been a problem UNTIL this Laodicean Church Age!
- 14) God's chosen people, the nation of Israel, descended FROM Patriarchs & NOT Matriarchs – they did NOT descend from Sarah, Rebecca & Rachel, they descended from Abraham, Isaac & Jacob
- 15) God established the Messianic line through Kings & NOT Queens
- 16) When God Almighty came into this world in the flesh He came as a MAN & NOT a woman
- 17) The Scriptures state plainly that the woman is a weaker vessel 1 Pet 3v7 **Likewise,**

ye husbands, dwell with them according to knowledge, giving honour unto the wife, as unto the weaker vessel, and as being heirs together of the grace of life; that your prayers be not hindered.' We shall look at this Scripture in more depth later!

Note also in regard to the woman's SILENCE as quoted in our verse 1 Tim 2v11+12...

1 Cor 14:33 **For God is not the author of confusion, but of peace, as in all churches of the saints.**

34 Let your women keep silence in the churches: for it is not permitted unto them to speak; but they are commanded to be under obedience, as also saith the law.

35 And if they will learn any thing, let them ask their husbands at home: for it is a shame for women to speak in the church.

36 What? came the word of God out from you? or came it unto you only?

37 If any man think himself to be a prophet, or spiritual, let him acknowledge that the things that I write unto you are the commandments of the Lord.

The Bible commands WOMEN to be silent in the churches NOT MEN! That is a COMMANDMENT from the Lord!

The Scriptures are PLAIN & CLEAR that a woman should not teach, speak or usurp authority over the man IN THE CHURCH GATHERING. They should not usurp authority over the man anywhere, including the home etc.

Now that is a hard thing to take in for the carnal worldly woman, **BUT that is what God has stated in His word!**

Now some woman start jumping up & down because of this, BUT these are NOT godly or spiritual women otherwise they would want to OBEY the Scriptures.

Now when it comes to prayer IN THE CHURCH I find this a little harder to prove from the Scriptures, BUT I would say this... (*We SHALL come back to this issue!*)

As far as I can see in the Scriptures...

- 1) There isn't one case of a woman praying ALOUD in church in the NT

Can you find a Scripture to overthrow that statement?

Question - If a woman cannot preach or teach in the church what about if someone who we work with i.e. a man asks us a question in relation to our faith, what then? Can a woman teach then?

Let us look at an example...

Acts 18:24 **And a certain Jew named Apollos, born at Alexandria, an eloquent man, and mighty in the scriptures, came to Ephesus.**

25 **This man was instructed in the way of the Lord; and being fervent in the spirit, he spake and taught diligently the things of the Lord, knowing only the baptism of John.**

26 **And he began to speak boldly in the synagogue: whom when Aquila and Priscilla had heard, they took him unto them, and expounded unto him the way of God more perfectly.**

Here a man who only knew the baptism of John was preaching in the Synagogue & Aquila & Priscilla took him unto them i.e. privately, & expounded unto Apollos the way of God more perfectly! The Bible never forbids women to expound in private but they must be silent IN THE CHURCH! There is a difference when it comes to the gathering of the saints as a church, as the Body of Christ!

Now I've had a number of 'dealings' i.e. talks, plus correspondence with so called 'women pastors', 'Deaconesses' etc. which is ANTI-Scriptural. Nowhere in the NT is there a woman

pastor, or Bible teacher (where men are present!) in the church assembly.

I have written to a number of women 'pastors / leaders' asking them to show me from the Scriptures where it says they can occupy the office they do? *Not one has ever written back; I wonder why?* Because they CANNOT prove FROM THE SCRIPTURES that they are doing right in the occupation of the role they have taken i.e. 'pastor, elder, bishop, deaconess etc'

Now as stated previously, we have been so influenced by the world today that church order, God's order, has been turned on its head. Women want to do men's jobs & men want to do women's jobs YET ACCORDING TO SCRIPTURE WE ARE DIFFERENT & HAVE DIFFERENT ROLES TO PLAY!

When a women heads up the household IT IS WRONG ACCORDING TO SCRIPTURE!

When a women gets up to preach & teach in church (where men are present) IT IS WRONG ACCORDING TO SCRIPTURE!

Now, you can of course DISOBEY the Scriptures, but be it on your head!

God is a God of order & NOT confusion; He knows what is best for us!

Now according to 1 Cor 14 which we read a portion of earlier, Paul said in v37 **If any man think himself to be a prophet, or spiritual, let him acknowledge that the things that I write unto you are the commandments of the Lord.** Note the commandments of the Lord! Are you spiritual? If so you will obey the commandments of the Lord!

In 1 Timothy the apostle gives the very same instructions concerning women, & this epistle was said to have been written to teach the proper order for churches in general. **But if I tarry long, that thou mayest know how thou oughtest to behave thyself in the house of God, which is the church of the living God, the pillar and ground of the truth.** (1 Tim 3v15)

The things contained in 1 Timothy are general instructions about church order to be obeyed by all churches in every century; & it is in this book, the book which contains the standards for church leaders, that God has FOBIDDEN women from taking authority over, or teaching, men! That is absolutely clear!

In giving instructions about women in the church, the Holy Spirit referred back to the original order of creation – Adam FIRST & then Eve. The Holy Spirit, in guiding Paul's pen, used this order of creation to prove that women must not take authority over the men. Don't forget that Adam was NOT deceived & the serpent never targeted Adam even though Adam was here first!

For Adam was first formed, then Eve. And Adam was not deceived, but the woman being deceived was in the transgression. (1 Tim 2v13) The woman was deceived!

Likewise, ye husbands, dwell with them according to knowledge, giving honour unto the wife, as unto the weaker vessel, and as being heirs together of the grace of life; that your prayers be not hindered. (1 Pet 3v7) The word of God says that the woman is the WEAKER vessel; the word of God says it!

Just according to these few Scriptures we can see that the woman has a different makeup than man! She was designed for a different role in life – that of a wife & mother! Her emotional, psychological & rational makeup is geared perfect for this, but she was NOT designed for leadership! Now again, that is hard to swallow for some women in this day & age; but it is the truth!

In the garden of Eden the devil deceived the woman BUT this was NOT true of Adam. He sinned, but he was NOT deceived; he knew what he was doing & is a picture of Christ regarding this i.e. Christ 'willingly' laid down His life for the church!

Eve had allowed herself to be thrust into a position of decision making, she was not supposed to occupy! She should have sought her husband regarding the situation!

Why does the Bible, Gods' Holy Word, the Book that God has written, state that the woman is a WEAKER vessel? Because she is! She is oftentimes more emotional, more sensitive, more caring, more loving, more gentle & MORE EASILY DECEIVED!

For the spiritual & godly woman this is NOT hard to take on board BUT for the carnal woman this goes '*right against the grain!*'

John R Rice writes...

In the Bible several women were called prophetesses, including...

- 1) Miriam (Exo 15v20)
- 2) Deborah (Judges 4v4)
- 3) Huldah (2 Kings 22v14)
- 4) Noadiah (Neh 6v14)
- 5) Anna (Luke 2v36)
- 6) Four daughters of Philip (Acts 21v9)

Some people who never studied this matter think that prophetesses were preachers! But they were NOT!

It is never mentioned that a single one of these prophetesses preached or addressed public congregations of people in any way. Prophetesses did NOT preach; they did not do the work of a pastor or Bible teacher!

To prophesy means to speak by divine revelation. A prophecy is a special revelation by the Spirit of God. A prophet is a man who receives a divine revelation. A prophetess is a woman who receives divine revelation concerning the future.

Prophets (masculine) were sometimes also preachers. Isaiah, Jeremiah, Daniel & Ezekiel all preached. But they were primarily prophets, that is, they received divine revelation of what should happen to Israel. They were also preachers, though they are called prophets. But prophetesses NEVER preached in the Bible. They received brief divine revelation to give to individuals, but were NEVER sent to preach, to address public assemblies as expounders of the Word, nor to do the work of a pastor or evangelist.

The work of a prophet is indicated in Deut 18v22 - **When a prophet speaketh in the name of the LORD, if the thing follow not, nor come to pass, that is the thing which the LORD hath not spoken, but the prophet hath spoken it presumptuously: thou shalt not be afraid of him.**

Drawing to a close let us look at Deborah for a moment...

Judges 4:4 And Deborah, a prophetess, the wife of Lapidoth, she judged Israel at that time. 5 And she dwelt under the palm tree of Deborah between Ramah and Bethel in mount Ephraim: and the children of Israel came up to her for judgment. 6 And she sent and called Barak the son of Abinoam out of Kedeshnaphtali, and said unto him, Hath not the LORD God of Israel commanded, saying, Go and draw toward mount Tabor, and take with thee ten thousand men of the children of Naphtali and of the children of Zebulun? 7 And I will draw unto thee to the river Kishon Sisera, the captain of Jabin's army, with his chariots and his multitude; and I will deliver him into thine hand. 8 And Barak said unto her, If thou wilt go with me, then I will go: but if thou wilt not go with me, then I will not go. 9 And she said, I will surely go with thee: notwithstanding the journey that thou takest shall not be for thine honour; for the LORD shall sell Sisera into the hand of a woman. And

Deborah arose, and went with Barak to Kedesh.

Deborah, the prophetess in the OT, did NOT preach & she took NO authority over men!

Deborah lived under a palm tree & the children of Israel came up to her for judgement. There was no government in the land. When two neighbours had a dispute & could not come to an agreement, they said, 'We will go & ask Deborah to decide!' So they came to Deborah & she would advise, possibly by divine revelation, how to settle the difference. And those who wished would take her decision. She had no authority.

Note that the prophecy of Deborah given in Judges 4v6+7 is a divine revelation. Note that it takes less than two verses to record it, & note that it was addressed to one man, Barak.

In verse 9 God gave Deborah a further revelation in this phrase, '**for the LORD shall sell Sisera into the hand of a woman.**' & shows that Barak's insistence on taking Deborah with him displeased the Lord! Deborah was NOT a preacher, nor a leader. God did NOT want her leading the army. She did not take authority over men & did NOT teach men! She simply delivered a brief message from God to Barak!

One more case before closing!

Miriam!

Miriam, the sister of Moses & of Aaron, is called a prophetess in Exodus 15v20+21. There we are told that... **Miriam the prophetess, the sister of Aaron, took a timbrel in her hand; and all the women went out after her with timbrels and with dances. And Miriam answered them, Sing ye to the LORD...** Miriam led WOMEN in singing! She NEVER led men in singing nor preached to men!

But Miriam the prophetess was used of God as a startling object lesson to women who seek authority & leadership in religious matters, & God cursed her with leprosy for her sin!

Read Numbers 12v1-15

Note that Miriam & Aaron said, 'Hath the Lord indeed spoken only by Moses? Hath he not spoken also by us?' Miriam & Aaron were both in the same sin & in verse 9 the Scripture says...' **And the anger of the LORD was kindled against them...**'

God was angry with Miriam & with Aaron because each of them wanted to usurp authority. BUT ONLY MIRIAM WAS STRICKEN WITH LEPROSY FOR HER SIN!!!

The difference was that Aaron had been appointed of God as the high priest. Aaron was a man & was given a man's place. So Miriam's sin was much more wicked than that of Aaron, & God made of her an appalling object lesson to all women who would seek to take authority or leadership over men or alongside them!

Miriam was a prophetess, but even a woman who is a prophetess sins terribly against God when she seeks leadership as a preacher, teacher or leader over men!

In conclusion...

The rise of women preachers has meant the rise of multiplied sects & cults such as...

- 1) The Fox sisters & Spiritism
- 2) Mrs White & 7th Day Adventism
- 3) Mrs Mary Baker Eddy & 'Christian' Science
- 4) Mrs Filmore & 'Unity'
- 5) Mrs Aimee Semple McPherson & the so called 'Foursquare Gospel'
- 6) Pentecostalism & its vast majority of women preachers with the heresy of

the ‘sinless perfection’ doctrine, radical emotionalism, overemphasis on ‘speaking in tongues’ & healing!

The trouble is today there is such effeminate preaching in the pulpits; churches are seen as ‘effeminate’ & therefore very few churches have men as the ‘majority’ in the congregation! The ‘MAN’S MAN’ is seldom seen today therefore few men are drawn into the church!

Often times preachers are milksops rather than men who have a cutting edge & ‘TELL IT LIKE IT IS!’

Are YOU?

Amen.