

Women In The Church
– Part 1 –
4400

I. Introduction

- A. Ask forgiveness on behalf of males
 - 1. But—we live in a fallen world
 - 2. More unrighteous than righteous—more sad days than glad days
 - 3. All happy weddings ultimately end in funerals, etc.
- B. Pervasive root cause: man’s rebellion against God
- C. My aim to be *objective*—based on Scripture

II. Prophetic Backdrop

- A. The prophetic word offers us light in darkness (2 Pet. 1:19)—without it we do not understand what is going on around us and we do not see where we are headed
- B. First, falling away (NKJ); rebellion (NIV); apostasy (NAS)—(2 Thess. 2:3; compare Acts 21:21) then, antichrist
- C. Deliberate rejection of God’s revealed laws—manifested in humanism/feminism/-secularism
- D. The original rebellion: man abrogating the right to determine good and evil (2 Thess. 2:3)
- E. Result: *lawlessness*—warning to believers (Matt. 24:12)
- F. Provokes *God’s curse* (Is. 24:4–6)
- G. Rebellion takes three main forms:
 - 1. Transgressed *laws*, e.g. Ten Commandments
 - 2. Changed *ordinance*—way of life, especially family
 - 3. Broken *everlasting covenant*, i.e., apostasy of Christian church
- H. Picture of society without restraint Is. 59:14, 15)

III. Ordinance = God’s Original Pattern

- A. Two basic human relationships
 - 1. Husbands/wives
 - 2. Parents/children
- B. When these are out of order, it affects all human society
- C. Jesus went back to the *beginning* (i.e., Genesis) (Matt. 19:3–5)
 - 1. Paul goes back to the relationship in the *Godhead* (1 Cor. 11:3)
 - a. Neither of these are affected by culture
 - b. Originally: man and woman to rule together (Gen. 1:26–27)
 - c. Woman created to be a *helper* (Gen. 2:18)
 - d. Also the role of the Holy Spirit—but not inferior (John 16:7)
- D. After the fall
 - 1. Christ has redeemed us from the curse of the *law* (Gal. 3:13; compare Deut. 28:15–68)—but not yet from the curse of the *original fall* (Gen. 3:16–19)
 - 2. Man to *rule*—be the *governor* (head) (Gen. 3:16; compare 1 Cor. 11:3)
 - a. (Hebrew for “government” and “prime minister”)
 - b. Governmental authority requires a comprehensive grasp of God’s redemptive plan, rightly relating the main elements
 - c. A responsibility committed to few—generally not to women (James 3:1)
 - 3. Other forms of teaching open to both men and women: intercession, worship,

healing, Christian character, etc.

IV. Specific Ministries Open To Women—Single Or Married

(Examine four New Testament lists)

- A. Prophecy, serving, exhorting, giving, showing mercy (but not teaching or leading) (Rom. 12:6–8)
- B. Praying or prophesying (1 Cor. 11:5)
- C. Prophets, miracles, healings, helps, administrations, tongues, interpretations (but not apostles, teachers) (1 Cor. 12:28–30). But always remember the more excellent way: *love* (1 Cor. 12:31)
- D. Prophets, evangelists (but not apostles, pastors, teachers) (Eph. 4:11)
- E. Hence the limitations set by Paul:
 - 1. Not to participate in governmental assemblies (1 Cor. 14:34)
 - 2. Not to teach where this implies governmental authority (1 Tim. 2:12)
 - 3. Not as pastor—who must be husband of one wife—ruling . . . (1 Tim. 3:2–4)
 - 4. [Phoebe a servant (deaconess) and “protectress”—Rom. 16:1–2]

V. Requirements For Married Women

- A. Submit to husband as to the Lord (Paul unmarried) (Eph. 5:22)
- B. Even to unbelieving husband (Peter married) (1 Pet. 3:1–2)
 - 1. “Likewise”—refers to conduct of Jesus in 1 Pet. 2:21–23 [Testimony of a family where it worked]
 - 2. Distinguish between *submission* and *submissiveness*
 - a. Submission begins in the Godhead
 - b. Without submission no headship—only domination
- C. Women are different, not inferior
 - 1. Some areas in which women excel:
 - a. Quick to recognize and respond to the Holy Spirit
 - b. Compassionate
 - c. Brave
 - d. Loyal
 - e. Excel as evangelists
 - 2. Three Marys stayed close to Jesus to the end (John 19:25)
 - 3. Many other women afar off (Matt. 27:55–56)
 - 4. Mary Magdalene first witness of the resurrection (Mark 16:9)
 - 5. Women sent to tell the apostles of the resurrection (Matt. 28:5–7)
 - 6. The Bible leaves room for *exceptions*, e.g. *Deborah*—but only one out of 13 judges
 - 7. We honor women who have stepped in where men have defaulted—but not as a permanent practice (e.g., in CIS)

VI. Critical Problems Of America

- A. No. 1: Delinquent males
- B. No. 2: Rebellious females
 - 1. Each problem increases the other
 - 2. Family reconciliation to avert desolating judgment (Mal. 4:5–6)
 - 3. Do you need to repent—renounce rebellion?