

The Role of Women in the Church

Part I – Practical Parameters

1 Timothy 2:11,12

Introduction:

- Historical progression of voting rights in the U.S.A.
 1. Initially, only male citizens who were property owners and w_____ could vote.
 2. Eventually, b_____ male citizens were given the right to vote.
 3. Finally, w_____ were given the right to vote.
 4. Today, voting has become a r_____ (only 61% of registered voters voted in the last presidential election).
- Many have viewed biblical passages such as 1 Tim 2:10-15 as restricting a woman's r_____ to minister as a believer. But these passages are all about responsibility.

We must maintain o_____ in the church (11)

- The society in Paul's day had a low view of women
 1. They were treated like p_____
 2. Jewish women were not allowed to r_____ the Books of Moses.
- Paul had high regard for women in ministry
 1. Rom 16 lists 25 key people in ministry, _____ of them are women.
 2. Some women who were important in starting churches: Priscilla in Ephesus (1 Cor 16:19), Lydia in Philippi (Acts 16:14), and Chloe in Corinth (1 Cor 1:11)
- As women received dignity, some began to overstep their responsibilities as believers in Christ. And so 1 Tim 2:11 states:
A woman must quietly receive instruction with entire submissiveness.
 1. Some women were being disruptive in a church service
 - a. They were not receiving instruction q_____ - see 1 Cor 14:34 where wives were asking their husbands questions while someone was giving the church instruction.
 - b. They were not submitting e_____ when someone was instructing the church with God's word.
 2. If men were having this problem, Paul would write *a man must quietly receive instruction...* - Thus, this verse applies to everyone.
- Application
 1. When a pastor gives a message
 - a. What would it look like if people were having conversations during a sermon? – This is c_____.

- b. Everyone must receive that message quietly, because it is God's word, which is the final authority in our lives – This is o_____.
- 2. When a teacher is leading a Bible discussion
 - a. We must not engage in side conversations – this is chaos.
 - b. We need to take turns and l_____ to one another – This is order.

We must respect the b_____ in ministry (12)

● Paul states, *I do not allow...*

1. This is not merely a personal preference
 - a. 1Tim 2:1 – *I urge that prayers be made...*
 - b. Phil 4:2 – *I urge Eudia and Syntyche to live in harmony...*
 - c. Eph 4:1- *I urge that you walk in a manner worthy of your calling...*
 - d. Gal 5:16 – *But I say, walk by the Spirit...*
2. Paul is passing along what God wants or does not want.

● The two restrictions for women in ministry

1. The Greek words translated, *to teach* and *to exercise authority* are in the present tense which emphasizes an on_____ role, not an isolated incident.
2. Women are not to assume an ongoing role of teacher or leader over adult m_____.
 - a. This does not mean that they are not as g_____ of teachers or leaders as men are. It just means that their responsibility ends with teaching and leading other women, youth, and children.
 - b. Women can give their input on a Bible passage in a mixed group – although they may be teaching, they are not assuming an ongoing role of teacher.

● Biblical challenges to women not being allowed to teach or have authority over men.

1. Deborah the p_____ was appointed by God to be the judge over Israel (Judges 4:4)
 - a. The spiritual ability God gave her was not teaching or leading, but prophecy.
 - 1) All true prophecy was a message directly from God and so was without e_____ (2 Pet 1:20,21). No prophet can botch a prophecy.

- 2) A teacher or leader who is not a prophet is s_____ to human error. These can botch a teaching.
- b. Therefore, Deborah is not an exception to 1 Tim 2:12.
2. Priscilla (Acts 18:24-26)
- a. Apollos was an extraordinary preacher, who taught the ways of Jesus a_____, but his understanding was incomplete because it came from John the Baptist.
- b. Priscilla and her husband Aquila took him aside and e_____ to him the way of God more accurately.
- c. Priscilla was not in violation of 1 Tim 2:12, since she was with her husband, it was an isolated incident, and she was not assuming an ongoing r_____ of teacher over Apollos.
3. Phoebe (Rom 16:1)
- a. Some versions call her a servant, while others call her a d_____ (the Greek word is the exact same one used in 1 Tim 3:8, deacon).
- b. In many churches today, the office of deacon is a l_____ role.
- c. Biblically, a deacon was not a leader but a h_____ to the leadership, taking on responsibilities that would weigh down the leadership.
4. Missionaries
- a. Missionaries proclaim the gospel to un_____, where 1 Tim 2:12 is in relationship to believers.
- b. Women missionaries who bring unbelievers to Christ may nurture the children, the youth, and the adult women, but must provide m_____ leadership to nurture the men.
- A woman who has the ongoing role of teacher or leader has the responsibility to exercise that role over women, youth, and children.

Why does God place such limitations on women in ministry? (Next week's message).