

The Role of Women in the Church
Part 2 – Why Can't Women Be Over Men?
1 Timothy 2:13-14

Introduction:

- Last week we analyzed the instruction that women are not to be in an ongoing church role of teaching or leading adult men.
 1. Some view this as a special c_____ that only applies to the Ephesian church that Timothy was working with.
 - a. If this is so, then why Paul say, *I do not allow...*? - because this was his p_____ in every church.
 - b. Why did Paul practice not allowing this? – because it came from the Lord's i_____ (see what happens if anyone disagrees Paul's instruction in I Cor 14:34-38 and 2 Thess 3:14).
 2. Some view this as applicable only to the c_____ of that day and so does not apply to us today.
 - a. "Culture" is not a reason to dismiss an instruction.
 - b. We must understand the culture and receive the t_____ truth (e.g. *Greet one another with a holy kiss*).
 - 1) The middle eastern culture practiced greeting with a kiss. Today's western culture practices handshakes, h_____, or verbal greetings.
 - 2) The command is not emphasizing the m_____ (a kiss) but the nature of the greeting – h_____.
 - 3) The timeless principle – when you greet one another, do it in a holy way, d_____ from the way the world does it; not casually but meaningfully.
 3. There is no good argument against obeying this instruction of not allowing women to assume such role over adult men.
- In today's message we will discover the reason why God wants it this way.

The first reason – Adam was created f_____, then Eve (13)

- Some try to discredit Paul's argument as faulty reasoning
 1. Anytime you try to invalidate scripture to justify a practice, you are going in the w_____ direction (see 2Pet 3:15,16).
 2. We should be trying to u_____ Paul's argument as a reason for conforming to his instruction.

- Paul's reasoning points to God's p_____ for creating Eve, which was to be Adam's h_____ (Gen 2:18-22)
 1. After creating Adam God said, *It is not good for man to be alone. I will m_____ a helper suitable for Him.* (v. 18).
 - a. Notice that God did not say that He was going to l_____ for a helper (some wrongly have concluded this because of the next two verses)
 - b. Verses 19,20 occurred b_____ God said what He did in verse 18 (see NIV and ESV translation – *Out of the ground God h____formed...*) – see Gen 1:20-26.
 2. Eve was not created to be Adam's teacher or leader but his helper. The Hebrew word translated helper is used over 100 times and every time it means _____.
 3. For a woman to take the church role of teaching or leading men goes a_____ the purpose for which she was created.

The second reason – Eve was d_____, not Adam (14)

- The above reason reveals that Adam was w_____ Eve during the entire period of temptation (see Gen 3:1-6, especially verse 6)
 1. Adam could have jumped in on the conversation when:
 - a. Eve said that God had told them not to even t_____ the forbidden fruit (v. 3).
 - b. The serpent contradicted God's word by saying, *You surely will not d_____.* (v. 4).
 2. Adam said nothing, w_____ his wife fall to deception.
- This above reason also reveals that while Eve did not think she was sinning, Adam willingly f_____ her into sin (v. 6)
 1. Eve saw that the fruit was good for food, a delight to the eyes, and could make one w_____ (which ones were true?)
 2. Adam submitted to Eve's l_____ and followed her into sin.
- Adam should have taken the role of teacher and leader by:
 1. Teaching Eve God's w_____.
 2. Leading Eve out of t_____.
- Insights
 1. When women step into roles that God designed for men only, it fosters l_____ in those men who are qualified for such role.

2. If men who have the gift of teaching and leading take their roles seriously, women would not be t_____ to assume such roles.
3. The devil want us to make the role of women in ministry a different issue: Who is the b_____ teacher or leader?
4. It is never w_____ to go against God's word.

Conclusion – a healthy church is not measured by how good its teachers and leaders are, but its o_____ to God's word.