

The Role of Women

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Introduction: Where would we be without our wives?

A. God created woman for the man. (**Gen 2:18-24**)

1. It can truly be said that God saved the best for last.
2. When “two become one” it is not just a physical act. This involves a blending and teamwork.
3. As in marriage it is important for both men and women to learn their God given place and work as God would have us.

B. God has given an arrangement for men and women to work together.

1. In the church we must recognize these arrangements. (**1 Cor 11:3**)
2. We live in a time where all previous social orders are questioned.
3. The trends within denominations are now rising among “churches of Christ”.

I. Passages That Outline the Role of Women

A. Where does God place the priorities for women? (**1 Peter 3:1-7**)

1. There is something you can do to have a very powerful impact upon your husband! (**v1-2**) Rather than demand your rights, build a good character.
2. Rather than the outward, a woman that is not constantly challenging their husband, but rather showing honor and confidence in his leadership, will build strength in him. (**v3-4**)
3. God places a great value on this spirit, do you?
4. It will take great faith to believe in God. (**v5-6; 1 Peter 3:12-15; Phil 1:27-30**) Do not fear to do what the Lord asks!

B. Here is a passage where men and women are contrasted. (**1 Tim 2:8-15**)

1. Here this is specific to men (**v8**)
2. What is proper for women? (**v9-10**) We need to give emphasis to subjection and a Godly spirit than fashion.
3. Here “all submission” is not just to the husband!
4. Because she is not to be in authority does not mean that women should not become good Bible students. (Some mates let the other do all the studying!)
5. The silence here is not an absolute silence. (**v12**)

hesuchia AV - silent 3, quietness 1; 4

1) quietness 1a) description of the life of one who stays at home doing his own work, and does not officiously meddle with the affairs of others 2) silence

6. There are circumstances where women may teach men. (**Acts 18:26**)
7. The reasons for subject are as old as creation. (**v13-14**)

C. Here the proper role of both men and women are described. (**1 Cor 11:7-12**)

1. Please note that women and men are equal but have different roles. (**v11-12; Gal 3:28**)
2. When the role of men or women are not fulfilled, the cause of Christ suffers.

D. Here women are limited in their participation in the assembly. **(1 Cor 14:33-37)**

1. This is not just any gathering of Christians. **(1 Cor 14:23)** (Not a Bible Class)
2. This silence involves the addressing of the assembly. **(1 Cor 14:28, 30)**
3. When a woman follows this rule they are showing submission whether married or not! (v34)
4. This is a command of God to be followed, not some social order by man. **(v37)**

II. How should we apply these verses?

A. There cannot be women elders and deacons. **(1 Tim 3:2, 11)**

1. Phoebe was a servant but not one who served in the office of a deacon! **(Rom 16:1)**
2. The word apostle has both a specific meaning and a general one. **(Acts 1:2, 26;14:14)**
3. Sadly some may be saying as the old Baptist manual “now it is different.”

B. It is unwise to have women in business meetings.

1. There were occasions for the whole church to hear discussion. **(Acts 15:6, 22)**
2. Why would we want to have women in the business meeting? What would they do?
3. In the Bible it was men who were to be the leaders. In our business meetings the men are to make the final decision.
4. To have women attend the business meeting but not speak would be like inviting someone to a dinner table filled with food and not let them eat. Temptation will likely prevail.

C. Women have a great influence in the church when they follow their God given role

1. There are some bad examples in the old testament of women who dominated their husbands and forced their will. (Ex. Jezebel and Ahab)
2. Still there are many good examples of women who did much good by living by faith. **(Prov 31:10-12,23,26-31)**
3. In the church a woman can cause great trouble by complaining, gossiping, being jealous and contentious. Some will push their husbands in the background to their designs. Some have used the term “she-elders”.
4. If you find a good church with a loving spirit, you will find a church with godly women. The atmosphere of the home and also of the church is greatly influenced by Godly women!

Conclusion: Will we trust God?

A. We will build for good or tear down for evil, which will it be? **(Matt 12:30)**

B. When we serve God, we must all learn submission. **(Heb 5:8-9)**