

Role Relationships in the Church (Part 1)

Note: You are about to create use constructive group tension (see *How to Lead A Small Group Bible Study*) to make the topic interesting but be on guard not to end it in tension before you even get to Part 2 and 3. Our goal is end up having a balanced and clear Biblical perspective on the role of women in the Church not to stir controversy.

“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.” 1 Cor. 14:34

Common reactions solicited by this passage

1. Misogynism, hatred of women
2. Chauvinism, superiority complex
3. Super conservative, (culturally bound)
4. It's an instruction specially made only for the Corinthian women
5. There is a **distinct role** between men and women in the church in general.
Note: That 1-4 is the common reaction in our days of women's lib especially from the unbelieving ranks but should this be our stand as well? Let's explore reaction #5

Outline

1. Women as Disciples
2. Women as Disciple Makers
3. Women as in Mercy Ministry
4. Women with Extraordinary roles
5. Conclusion

I. Women as Disciples

1. Read: **Lk. 8:1-2.**
2. Were women included in Jesus ministry?
3. What role did the women play in Jesus' ministry?
4. Were they included among the inner Twelve?
5. Read: **Lk. 10:38-42.**
6. Were women included in this gathering?
7. What roles did the women play in this gathering?
8. Which role did Jesus give importance?
9. Does this mean the other role should be abandoned?
POINT: No woman was ever included to be *ONE OF the Twelve*, but they were *WITH the twelve* and have played important roles in Jesus' ministry.
10. Read: **1 Tim. 2:11**
11. IN our days, this part of the text raises our eyebrows (so to speak): "Let the women learn **in silence with all subjection.**"
12. Why do you suppose so?
13. In those days, particularly in the ancient patriarchal society of the Jews, it is this part of the text that raises their eyebrows: "**Let the women learn** in silence with all subjection."
Note: This is unusual in the Pharisic culture, women learning together with men? However this shows that Paul is neither misogynistic nor chauvinistic, but he was a biblicist, so should we.
POINT: Women were to receive instruction, they are to study Scriptures, listen to the Word, students of theology and of doctrines. Not just second-hand instructions, but they are to be disciples.

II. Women as Disciple Makers

1. Read: **2 Tim. 1:5-11.**
2. What did Paul consider to be first resident in Timothy's grandmother (Lois) and then Timothy's mother (Eunice)?
3. Read: **2 Tim. 3:14-15.**
4. What role do you suppose these women played in Timothy's life as he was growing up?
5. Read: **Acts 16:1.**
6. How was Timothy introduced?
7. What significance do you suppose it suggests by being introduced alone with one's mother?
POINT: Christian Women has a significant role in discipling their own children, Christian Mos and Grandmas are to be their kids disciplers/teachers.
8. Read: **Titus 2:3-5.**
9. What roles do older women supposed to play with younger women?
POINT: Women also have a significant role in discipling younger (spiritual or physically speaking) women, they are also to be their disciplers. They are to **teach** them and to **train** them.
10. Read: **Acts 18:24-28.**
11. How was Apollos described in this passage?
12. Who were involved in explaining to Apollos the way of God?
14. How did they do it?
15. What significant role did the woman play in this passage?
16. Read: **Rom. 16:3.**
17. How did Paul regard the two characters in this passage?
18. Did he regard any of them lesser in role compared to him who is an apostles?
Note: This is proof enough that Paul was not a chauvinist, although he certainly have a clear understanding of the difference in roles each sex play in the Church.
POINT: Women, *WITH* their husbands do have a role to play in *PRIVATELY* expound even ministers of the Word. They, *WITH* their husbands are to be fellow-workers as well.

Conclusion (Part -1)

1. Paul was not a misogynist (a woman hater) in fact the Scripture tells us that he had a high regard with the mother of Timothy, Eunice and even with his Grandma Lois.
2. Paul also respected Prisca, he even called here Priscilla, which is like calling 'Liz' or 'Beth' signifying a closer relationship between fellow workers
3. We learn that even in the New Testament Church, the women figures among the Apostoles.
 - a. They disciple their children
 - b. They disciple their fellow women
 - c. They, along with their husbands, may privately instruct even a minister of the Word.
 - d. They were not considered inferior but as fellow worker in the Lord.

Coming up next:

- III. Women as caregivers and helpers in the
- IV. Women with extraordinary roles.