

Role Relationships in the Church (Part 2)

Outline

1. Women as Disciples - *completed by now*
2. Women as Disciple Makers - *completed by now*
3. Women as in Mercy Ministry
4. Women with Extraordinary roles
5. Conclusion

III. Women in Mercy Ministry

1. Review: **2 Tim. 1:5; 3:14-15**
POINT: Modern culture has a powerful influence that even the some in the churches, relegated motherhood as second class. We must resist this under-estimation of motherhood and treat it as first-class office since it plays an important role of shaping the life of younger generations. They are also Disciple Makers. As the men work in the office or in the ministry, the women play the very crucial role of keeping the family intact until he comes home. We cannot just ignore the importance of this. When it comes to chores in the house, it's entirely another story. Household chores are not necessarily an exclusively mother's job, the father should be involved in doing chores as well. But please see **1 Tim. 5:14** which says, "women widows are they to manage homes.")
2. Review: **Luke 10:38-42**
3. Jesus explicitly approved Mary's choice and silently rebuked Martha. Do you suppose that means Martha should stop doing the ministry of hospitality?
Ans. No The Lord did not prohibit Martha to do the work she is doing however the good part is what Mary has chosen to do.
6. So how do you suppose the likes of Martha should serve in the ministry? **Ans. <Open discussion>**
7. How do you suppose Martha behave and handle such a ministry that will not lead to grumbling and murmuring? **Ans. <Open discussion>**
8. Say if neither Mary nor Martha served in that gathering who would have? Lazarus, their brother?
Ans. <Open discussion>
9. Read: **I Tim. 5:9-15.**
10. Interestingly the early Church enlisted widows who were at least 60 years of age to certain tasks in the early Church.
11. What are the 9 requirements Paul listed that should be in their credentials? (Answers given below)
 - a. At least 60 yrs old
 - b. Was faithful to his husband
 - c. Known to be a good worker
 - d. Have raised children
 - e. Experience in hosting guests
 - f. Served the saints (washed their feet)
 - g. Helped those in trouble
 - h. Love to do good works
12. What kind of task do you suppose require these credentials? **Ans. Mercy ministry**
POINT: Women worked alongside men deacons in the mercy ministry in the Church, no they were not called deacons but they worked with deacons with the credentials listed above.
13. Read: **Acts 6:1-7.**
14. What led to murmuring among in the early church?
15. What step did the apostles take to resolve this matter which even led to increase in the number of believers? See verse 7.
Ans. They elected a class of mercy ministry as they continue to concentrate on the ministry of the word and prayer.

16. Read: **Rom. 16:1-4**
17. How did Paul describe Phoebe? Answers below:
 - a. As a sister
 - b. Servant of the church in Cenchrea
 - c. Helper of many and of the Paul himself
18. How about Priscilla? Answers given below:
 - a. As a fellow worker with her husband Aquilla
 - b. Risked their own for Paul's life
 - c. The churches of the Gentiles give thanks.**POINT:** Christian Women, as demonstrated by Phoebe and Priscilla (along with her husband), had a larger support in mercy ministry.

IV. Women with Extraordinary Roles

1. Read: **Rom. 16:7.**
POINT: The name Junia which means "youth" is a feminine appellation (name). Along with Andronicus, who was probably her husband or brother (covering?), Junia were esteemed by the apostles and by the early Christians before Paul was called into the ministry.
2. Read: **Acts 21:8-9.**
3. What were the spiritual gifts of Philip's unmarried daughters?
Ans. They prophesy
4. Read: **Joel 2:28-29.**
5. According to this passage, did the Lord only promise to pour out his Spirit only among men?
Ans. No, Joel says on "all people." That is on all classes of people: old men, young men, both men and women.
POINT: The presence of women prophesying is indicative of the fulfillment of God's promise through the prophet Joel; more on the women and prophecy in Part 3.
6. Read: **1 Pet. 3:5.**
7. Describe the characteristics of holy women according to Peter?
Ans. Trusted in God, adorned themselves, being in subjection unto their own husbands.

CONCLUSION (PART-2):

Previously we have learned of how the early Christian women teach and disciple their younger counterpart.

In this lesson we've learned how important motherhood is because their role in the church goes beyond their own homes.

Their participation mercy ministry or the ministry of helps is vital in the church.

We have also seen women having extra ordinary roles such as prophets.

"For after this manner in the old time the holy women also, who trusted in God, adorned themselves, being in subjection unto their own husbands." I Pet. 3:15

Next up: More about the guidelines set forth by God through St. Paul regarding prophecy in an assembly.