

Role Relationships in the Church (Part 3)

Note: We have finally reached the conclusion of this study. With this in mind, we go back to the scripture that we have read in Part-1 equipped with the background knowledge of how important women's role in the New Testament Church.

V. Study of 1 Tim. 2 with 1 Cor. 11, 14

(Read: **Gen. 1:26-27.**)

POINT: If we are to image the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit, each distinct in person and roles, we must also recognize the fact that the male and female members of the Church have their distinct roles as well.

1. Read: **Gen. 2:15-25.** What are the role distinctions you see in the passage?
 - a) **Complementary:** Eve helped Adam complementarily—not just in companionship “It is not good for man to be alone” but also as a help-meet, “I will make him a help meet for him,” v.18. The Hebrew word, “ayzer” means help while “neged” w/c is literally a “counterpart” (Strong’s), see also 1 Cor. 11:11.
NOTE: Men & Women are equal as far as the salvation is concerned, Gal. 3:8, we’re talking about roles here.
 - b) **Authoritatively:** In v. 23, Eve was given a name given by Adam—this by itself signifies Adam’s headship in creative order. In vv. 15-17 we see that Adam was given charge to be the “covenant keeper”. It means that the mantle of authority rests upon Adam not upon Eve.
NOTE: Adam ruled over Eve after the Fall, see Gen. 3:16. It was God’s decree because of the Fall. Rule over in Heb. “marshal,” means dominion, or lording over. Some say it is not the same as having her as a “help meet”, perhaps this is just a hairline distinction.
2. Read: **1 Tim. 2:8-15.** What was the underlying reason why Paul forbids women to usurp [Gk. “authenteo”, “to dominate”] authority over man?
 - a) “Adam was formed first then Eve”, see v. 13
 - b) “It was the woman who was deceived,” see v.14

POINT-a: It signifies that 1 Tim. 2:12-14 is cross-cultural. Meaning, wherever & whenever, Adam has always been before Eve regardless of which culture we view it from.

NOTE: We don’t normally have a problem in POINT-a, since it’s a historical fact, the point of contention is what’s in verse 14

POINT-b: This is not to say women are more gullible than men. But looking at it as a matter of Biblical fact we see that there was a reversal of the order of authority between

3. Gen. 3:6 says, “And when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was pleasant to the eyes, and a tree to be desired to make one wise, she took of the fruit thereof, and did eat, and gave also unto her husband with her; and he did eat.”

Instead of consulting first with Adam as the keeper of the covenant who was “with her”, the woman “took of the fruit” and then “gave also unto her husband.” With or without Adam on Eve’s side when the temptation has occurred, Eve took it upon herself to decide for both of them. Adam on the other hand, did something worst by following suit despite knowing God’s commandment.

4. Read: **1 Tim. 2:12:** “I do not permit a woman to teach or have authority over a man.” Is this passage obscure?

Ans. No, the passage is didactic and explicitly stated, men (adult) are not supposed to be under the authority of women in Church setting. Such distinction in role, office or function was given in the New Covenant.

5. Read: **1 Tim. 3:14-15.** Why did Paul give this letter to Timothy in advance?

Ans. To let him know how he should conduct himself in the House of God. This conduct is not just in to be in Ephesus where Timothy was known to minister. It is applicable to the “House of God, the pillar and ground of truth.” It’s applicable to every church (see also 1 Cor. 11:16).

6. Read: **1 Cor. 11:1-3.** What’s “ordinance”?

Ans. A precept or instruction handed over by mouth or in writing to be practiced. Also found in 1 Cor. 11:23; 15:3, breaking of bread; 2 Pe. 2:21, it’s holy; Jude 1:3, faith the saints should contend for; see also 1 Cor. 11:16, “no other custom.”

7. Review: **1 Tim. 2:12,** “to be in silence.” Read: **1 Cor. 14:26-40.** Is this a universal gag order on all women in the church?

Ans. See vv. 34-36, along with 1 Tim. 2:12. This is not a universal gag order on all women but “to be in silence” in teaching doctrinal authority in a congregational assembly of God’s people. It’s a command for her nor to challenge that authority in an inappropriate way (review how Apollos was corrected by husband & wife tandem: Aquilla & Priscilla: (a) It was held in private (b) and Priscilla was still under Aquilla’s covering)

Review: **1 Cor. 14:37-38**

7. Last Question: Was Paul’s instruction something he just made up?

Ans. No. They are the commandments of the Lord, he said, “If any man think himself to be a **prophet, or spiritual**, let him acknowledge that the things that I write unto you are the **commandments of the Lord.**”

CONCLUSIONS

Silence in the church is not a universal gag order on all women. Nor is it an absolute prohibition on **all forms** of teaching. Women may teach given the following Biblical instructions:

- Paul instructed older women to teach younger women. As well as their children/grandchildren (ex. Eunice & Lois)
- Paul also endorsed women who prophesy to be under covering (i.e., “prophesy” = “pro” + “phemi” that is, “forth” + “telling” such as exhortation, reproof, warning, edification & comfort, see also ITS-24.PPT
Interpretation of Prophecy
- Priscilla was with Aquilla when they privately corrected Apollos, a minister of God’s word (covering?)

The Bible forbids women from assuming dominion over men in teaching/doctrinal matters.

As we freely exercise & express our faith, we should keep God’s ordinance in mind because our spiritual liberty does not give us license to do anything that pleases us. We shouldn’t undermine the role God has set before us because remaining in God word is vital to our spiritual well-being (Jn. 8:31).