

San Juan church of Christ

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What Does God's Word Say About...

The Various Roles of Women - Part 1

There are churches today that have allowed women to take on leadership roles in the work of the church, its worship, and in the home. The question that needs to be answered is, where in the Bible do we find the authority for these roles to be fulfilled by women? The Bible is clear about the role of women in the church worship. If one chooses to reject God's word in this teaching, then they could be led to compromise in other areas of doctrinal matters. The majority of churches and denominations that accept women as preachers and teachers will often adopt pro-homosexual and pro-abortion positions, violating God's doctrines in these areas.

Paul wrote, "A woman must quietly receive instruction with entire submissiveness. But do not allow a woman to teach or exercise authority over a man, but to remain quiet" (1 Tim. 2:11-12). Paul then explains the reason for this commandment: "For it was Adam who was first created, then Eve. And it was not Adam who was deceived, but the woman being deceived, fell into transgression," (1 Tim. 2:13-14). This scripture established male spiritual leadership for 2 reasons: (1) that man was created first, which gives man precedence as the first born of the created order; (2) it was Eve who first took the forbidden fruit and then led her husband, Adam, into sin. The sin of man (Adam) was that he allowed the woman to sin. Although Adam failed in his God-given role of being the spiritual leader, God never changed His mind about male spiritual leadership. Male spiritual leadership becomes an unalterable pattern. So "culture" does not have anything to do with this commandment that Paul gave because there was no "culture" in the garden. We need to consider the last phrase in Genesis 3:16, "And he [man] shall rule over you." There is absolutely no way that the women's liberation movement can make this passage mean anything but what it says. The woman is to submit to the man, and it has not changed from the garden to the present time.

Remember, Eve sinned first, but sin entered the world through Adam (Romans 5:12) and not Eve, because Adam was in the position of authority. This is why Paul writes, "For the husband is the head of the wife, as Christ also is the head of the church," (Eph. 5:23). In summation, the place of spiritual authority in the church, and the family, is not given, by scripture, to the woman. When Paul wrote, "There is neither Jew nor Greek, neither slave nor free man, neither male nor female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus," (Gal. 3:28), he was speaking about salvation "in Christ," not church leadership roles.

Please send any comments, questions, or requests for a Bible study to:

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