

**"Is a Woman Pastor Biblical?"**

**1 Timothy 2**

**Introduction:** Today we are going to look at a very controversial subject. We have looked at the subjects of abortion and global warming in the past so I figured we should just continue the roll and gather up the subject of women pastors. There are many different views on women pastors, but our views and our opinions do not count. What counts is, what God says about the subject. Before we get to the Word of God let me share a few statistics.

- In the past 25 years the number of women pastors has tripled.
- One out of every eleven Protestant pastors is a woman today.
- Overall, 13.4% of pastors are women today.

There are many churches today where women serve as senior pastor. Some of these women pastors are very popular and are held in high esteem. They have written many books, have TV programs, and can be heard on the radio.

So the question is, "Are they really legitimate pastors?"

**I. The Truth of the Bible**

**Notice 1 Timothy 2:9-12**

Here in this text Paul is instructing Timothy regarding women in the church. In this text Paul is very clear that a woman is not to teach nor to have authority over the man, but is to be silent in the church. He tells Timothy this two times, once in verse 11 and in verse 12. Let us notice a parallel passage to this.

**1 Corinthians 14:33-35**

<sup>33</sup> *For God is not the author of confusion, but of peace, as in all churches of the saints.*

<sup>34</sup> **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.

<sup>35</sup> **And if they will learn any thing, let them ask their husbands at home: for it is a shame for women to speak in the church.**

Here in verse 35 Paul tells us that it is a "shame" for a woman to speak in the church. Paul is talking here about public speaking such as teaching. The word "shame" is a very strong word. The word means "filthy" or "dishonor." Let me show you how the same word is used elsewhere.

**Ephesians 5:12**

<sup>11</sup> *And have no fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness, but rather reprove them.*

<sup>12</sup> *For it is a shame even to speak of those things which are done of them in secret.*

From these two passages we can clearly see that the Bible clearly forbids a woman to teach or preach thus having authority over the men in the church. There are no exceptions.

**II. The Problem**

Now there is much more to this that we need to see.

**Notice 1 Timothy 2:11-12 again.**

The woman is to learn in silence with all subjection. This means she is to be subject unto her husband or if she is not married, then she is called to be subject unto the leadership of the church.

Now let us notice again 1 Corinthians 14.

**1 Corinthians 14:34**

<sup>34</sup> *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.*

I read what one man wrote on this verse and he said there is no place in the Old Testament that commands a woman to be under obedience. I can tell you that he is wrong, and I will show you the text.

**Genesis 3:13-16**

<sup>13</sup> *And the LORD God said unto the woman, What is this that thou hast done? And the woman said, The serpent beguiled me, and I did eat.*

<sup>14</sup> *And the LORD God said unto the serpent, Because thou hast done this, thou art cursed above all cattle, and above every beast of the field; upon thy belly shalt thou go, and dust shalt thou eat all the days of thy life:*

<sup>15</sup> *And I will put enmity between thee and the woman, and between thy seed and her seed; it shall bruise thy head, and thou shalt bruise his heel.*

<sup>16</sup> *Unto the woman he said, I will greatly multiply thy sorrow and thy conception; in sorrow thou shalt bring forth children; and thy desire shall be to thy husband, and he shall rule over thee.*

The woman's desire would be to her husband, but what does this mean? What ever it is it is something that is sinful. It cannot intimate desire because that is not a sinful desire. That is what leads to children. Let us look at another text and we can then understand what God is saying here.

**Genesis 4:4-7**

<sup>4</sup> *And Abel, he also brought of the firstlings of his flock and of the fat thereof. And the LORD had respect unto Abel and to his offering:*

<sup>5</sup> *But unto Cain and to his offering he had not respect. And Cain was very wroth, and his countenance fell.*

<sup>6</sup> *And the LORD said unto Cain, Why art thou wroth? and why is thy countenance fallen?*

<sup>7</sup> *If thou doest well, shalt thou not be accepted? and if thou doest not well, sin lieth at the door. And unto thee shall be his desire, and thou shalt rule over him.*

Sin's desire was to rule over Cain. This is the very same idea with what God is saying to Eve. Her desire would be to rule over her husband, but God made the man the head and authority of the family. Therefore, the wife is to be subject to her husband or we could say the woman is to submit to the leadership of the man. This is something that the woman must be mindful of at all times because there is the desire to have authority over her husband.

Now let us get back to women preachers. **When a woman becomes a pastor then the problem is that the roles are reversed.** This is not the way God has established the family nor the church.

**Ephesians 5:22-24, 30-32**

<sup>22</sup> *Wives, submit yourselves unto your own husbands, as unto the Lord.*

<sup>23</sup> *For the husband is the head of the wife, even as Christ is the head of the church: and he is the saviour of the body.*

<sup>24</sup> *Therefore as the church is subject unto Christ, so let the wives be to their own husbands in every thing.*

<sup>30</sup> For we are members of his body, of his flesh, and of his bones.

<sup>31</sup> For this cause shall a man leave his father and mother, and shall be joined unto his wife, and they two shall be one flesh.

<sup>32</sup> This is a great mystery: but I speak concerning Christ and the church.

Let me show you another text.

### **Genesis 2:21-23**

<sup>21</sup> And the LORD God caused a deep sleep to fall upon Adam, and he slept: and he took one of his ribs, and closed up the flesh instead thereof;

<sup>22</sup> And the rib, which the LORD God had taken from man, made he a woman, and brought her unto the man.

<sup>23</sup> And Adam said, This is now bone of my bones, and flesh of my flesh: she shall be called Woman, because she was taken out of Man.

The woman was made from the SIDE not the HEAD. She is to be by his side, under the protection of his arm, close to his heart. She is NOT to have authority over the man.

The woman who is in the role of a pastor is out of the will of God. She is NOT to have any authority over the men in the church.

### **III. The Dangers**

Many believers do not understand that when the woman takes the role of spiritual leader then are great dangers.

### **2 Timothy 2:12-14**

<sup>12</sup> But I suffer not a woman to teach, nor to usurp authority over the man, but to be in silence.

<sup>13</sup> For Adam was first formed, then Eve.

<sup>14</sup> And Adam was not deceived, but the woman being deceived was in the transgression.

Now let us look at this account.

### **Genesis 3:1-6**

*Now the serpent was more subtil than any beast of the field which the LORD God had made. And he said unto the woman, Yea, hath God said, Ye shall not eat of every tree of the garden?*

<sup>2</sup> *And the woman said unto the serpent, We may eat of the fruit of the trees of the garden:*

<sup>3</sup> *But of the fruit of the tree which is in the midst of the garden, God hath said, Ye shall not eat of it, neither shall ye touch it, lest ye die.*

<sup>4</sup> *And the serpent said unto the woman, Ye shall not surely die:*

<sup>5</sup> *For God doth know that in the day ye eat thereof, then your eyes shall be opened, and ye shall be as gods, knowing good and evil.*

<sup>6</sup> *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.*

Eve became very vulnerable when she stepped away from the protection of Adam. She was then easily deceived by Satan, and she ate of the fruit. She gave the fruit to Adam, and he then ate. He deliberately disobeyed God because he could not live without Eve. He loved her so deeply that he did not want her to suffer alone.

But listen now to the dangers that come about when a woman steps out in independence away from her father's protection or away from her husband's protection.

**1. She becomes very vulnerable.**

The woman is spiritually weaker. Because of her compassion and her passion she will be easily led to deception. Just as Eve was. Consider this also that Eve was far more intelligent than women today and she was deceived. So how quickly can a woman, away from her spiritual protector, be led into deception?

There is another danger that is very serious.

**2. Men become weak.**

This is exactly what happened to Adam. Eve stepped away and she was deceived, and he became weak which led to the fall of the entire human race. When women lead men become weak and this then leads to disaster. When women lead churches, you can be sure the men in the church are extremely weak. When God's established order is abandoned, there are going to be consequences.

Is this not what we are seeing in our nation today? We have young women in places of leadership where they should not be, and the men have become weak. The women are suppressing the authority of the men. Men in our society are belittled and made to look inadequate. We are being set up as a nation for a major fall.

Now I know that there are many people who would disagree with what I have taught today, and they believe it is just fine to have women in places of spiritual leadership. Let me give you a few thoughts to consider.

- a. There were no women who wrote any of the Bible.
- b. There were no women who ruled over Israel.
- c. There were no women who held longtime offices of a prophet.
- d. There were no women priests in the Old Testament.
- e. There were no women apostles.
- f. There is no mention of women pastors in any of the churches listed in the Bible.
- g. There were no women deacons in the Bible.

Notice the qualifications of the pastor.

### **1 Timothy 3:1-2**

*This is a true saying, if a man desire the office of a bishop, he desireth a good work.*

<sup>2</sup> *A bishop then must be blameless, the husband of one wife, vigilant, sober, of good behaviour, given to hospitality, apt to teach;*

### **IV. What can women do in the church?**

They can teach other women, or they can teach the children. They can pray for the leadership.

### **Titus 2:3-5**

<sup>3</sup> *The aged women likewise, that they be in behaviour as becometh holiness, not false accusers, not given to much wine, teachers of good things;*

<sup>4</sup> *That they may teach the young women to be sober, to love their husbands, to love their children,*

<sup>5</sup> *To be discreet, chaste, keepers at home, good, obedient to their own husbands, that the word of God be not blasphemed.*

**Conclusion:**

**2 John 1:9-11**

<sup>9</sup> *Whosoever transgresseth, and abideth not in the doctrine of Christ, hath not God. He that abideth in the doctrine of Christ, he hath both the Father and the Son.*

<sup>10</sup> *If there come any unto you, and bring not this doctrine, receive him not into your house, neither bid him God speed:*

<sup>11</sup> *For he that biddeth him God speed is partaker of his evil deeds.*