

July 12, 2015

Women in the Church 1 Corinthians 14:33-37

Longer passages are not quoted in the study sheet, but they can be read in the accompanying transcript.

In the beginning God _____ us male and female. He made us in His _____ and in His likeness. But does God give the same _____ to women that He gives to men? Today we're going to explore the role of women in the _____. **Read what God said in Isaiah 55:8-9.** God's ways are not always our ways, but God's ways are always _____. We may not understand God's ways or even agree with them, but God's _____ far exceeds our own; and through time, God's wisdom proves right every time. So we follow the One who is utterly trustworthy. Psalm 19:9 says, "The judgments of the LORD are true; they are righteous altogether."

Where in the world would any of us be _____ the women in our lives? They are indeed precious in so many ways and a _____ to the church. I've been blessed with a godly mother who has passed and has gone to be with the Lord; I now have a faithful and loving wife for more than forty years, with four precious daughters who are all well-educated and very talented. I also have eleven delightful granddaughters. Do I care about all the females in my life? Of course I do! I want every good thing for them and want them to serve God and to go to heaven.

The best thing that you can do is to love and serve God faithfully and to _____ others to love and serve God. Obeying God is an _____ of love. The Lord Jesus said, "If you love Me, you will _____ My commandments" (John 14:15). If you want to _____ your family, lead them in loving the Lord. Lead them to _____ the Lord in every way. Don't pick which _____ you like and ignore the others. We are to "observe _____ things" that Jesus commands us. And this touches every aspect of our _____.

Our reading today comes from 1 Corinthians 14:33-37.

When God created Adam and Eve, He created the male _____ and the female _____. God created her to be a "_____ fit for him" (Genesis 2:18). First Corinthians 11:9 says, "for indeed man was not _____ for the woman's sake, but woman for the man's sake." The distinctive roles the Scriptures place on men and women are not _____ traditions of bygone eras but God's plan for humans made in His image.

When Adam and Eve _____ in the garden, God said to the woman, "I will greatly multiply your pain in childbirth, and in pain you will bring forth children; Yet your _____ will be for your husband, And he will _____ over you" (Genesis 3:16). This declaration from the beginning applies to God's order in the _____ and in the _____. This is God's declaration for _____ time. God's Word, thousands of years later, says, "But I want you to _____ that the head of every man is Christ, the head of woman is man, and the head of Christ is God" (I Corinthians 11:3). Some have assumed that because man is the head of woman that this makes women _____ to

men. The relationship, however, between Christ and the Father is like the relationship of woman to man; consequently, being in subjection does not mean being less than _____. Paul said the Lord Jesus was _____ with the Father but took the form of a servant (Philippians 2:5-8). Just because a woman is to be in subjection to a man does not make her _____ than him. Any man who _____ women with disrespect is failing as a Christian.

When the Lord chose people to _____ and _____ the church, Christ chose men. The twelve _____ were all men, not six men and six women. The seven _____ chosen to feed the Grecian widows in Acts 6 were all men. When the Scripture lays down the qualifications for elders and deacons in 1 Timothy 3:1-14, they are required to be _____. The _____ of females in this matter is no accident.

Scripture gives women in the New Testament various, praiseworthy _____ of teaching and service. Women may evangelize _____ as Priscilla and Aquilla did with Apollos in Acts 18:26; and in Philippians 4:2-3 that describes Euodia and Syntyche as fellow-laborers with Paul in the _____. Paul instructed older women in Titus 2:3-4 to teach and to train the younger women to _____ their husbands and their children. Acts 9:36 describes Dorcas as a woman “_____ of good works and acts of charity (or kindness).” Some women had spiritual gifts; Acts 21:9 says that Philip the evangelist had _____ daughters who prophesied. Women were the _____ at the tomb of Jesus, and the Lord sent them to _____ the apostles of His resurrection. Women often traveled with Jesus and His disciples and _____ His ministry.

Faithful Christian men should _____ their wives with honor and respect. First Peter 3:7 says, “You husbands in the same way, live with your wives in an understanding way, as with someone weaker, since she is a woman; and show her _____ as a fellow heir of the grace of life, so that your _____ will not be hindered.” Godly men _____ women; ungodly men _____ them.

The New Testament, however, _____ the roles women may play in the assembled church and in the leadership of the church. **Read what the Bible says in 1 Corinthians 14:33-37.** It is clear women are not to speak to the whole church to impart _____.

Paul gives four _____ for this restriction on women. First, the _____ says this. This may refer to Genesis 3:16 as we noted, or it could be that the female’s subordination is due to the _____ in the garden. It possibly could come from man’s priority in the creation: the Bible says “Then the _____ which the LORD God had taken from man, He made into a woman, and He brought her to the man” (Genesis 2:22). Numbers 30:3-12 also notes that a woman’s vow must be _____ either by her father or by her husband, and if he opposes the vow, then her pledge will not stand.

Second, “it is shameful for women (not just wives) to _____ in church” (1 Corinthians 14:35). “Church” here refers to the assembled _____ as in I Corinthians 11:18. Paul calls the act of a woman speaking in church “shameful” or “disgraceful.” While some hold that _____ is the source of the shame, it likely means this shame instead arises from _____ and His Law. In fact, the _____ cults of both Corinth and Ephesus had women as their high priestesses and teachers. The

Lord's commandment was actually _____ to the pagan culture of Corinth! God's teaching came to change the world; and we must not let the world change the _____.

Third, "Let your women keep silent in the _____." Note the plural. This practice was not merely to be kept in Corinth, but in _____ of the churches of Christ across the way. They were to "keep silent." This phrase "keep silent" is from the Greek word *sigao*, which means to hold one's _____ and say nothing. The instruction to "keep silent" is given _____ times in this chapter. First, a tongue speaker (even if he was a male) is to "keep silent" when no interpreter is present (verse 28). Second, if one prophet is speaking and another receives a revelation, "the first one must keep silent" (verses 29-30). Third, he says "Let your women keep silent in the churches, for they are not permitted to speak" (verse 34). "Speaking" here is a general term which would _____ to public talk: that is leading prayer, preaching, prophesying, and tongue-speaking or interpreting; they were not to do that.

Fourth, Paul says this is "the _____ of the Lord" (chapter 14:37). Some gifted Christians likely objected to Paul's instructions, so Paul boldly declares the _____ of this "commandment" is the Lord himself. There's nothing cultural or temporary about the Lord's _____ to the churches.

Some object, "Well, what about the women who were praying and prophesying in 1 Corinthians 11:4 - 5?" The primary subject of chapter 11 has to do with wearing _____ and not the speaking in church. The "custom" or practice of the day was for women to have long hair and wear a veil. Breaking this custom was, in that day, "disgraceful" and against _____. Some gifted women may have thought that their spiritual _____ gave them the right to speak in the assembled church. If the women were speaking in the assembled church in chapter 11, Paul eventually tells them to _____ in chapter 14. Women likely spoke in _____ settings than the assembled church, such as gatherings of women or in private. Whatever the case, the command of the Lord was to _____ the practice of women speaking in the assembled churches as a whole.

We have this teaching _____ in 1 Timothy 2. Paul said, "I desire then that in every place, (that is in every place of worship), the _____ should pray, lifting holy hands without anger or quarreling" (1 Timothy 2:8). Paul chose "men (adult males) in every place to _____." The phrase "in every place" is a specific term speaking of the _____ where congregations assembled to worship. Clearly, God wanted males to take the _____ in prayer and worship.

If women are not permitted to lead prayer, surely they are also forbidden to _____. Women are to learn in quietness, and not teach! **Read 1 Timothy 2:11-12.** Asserting his apostolic authority, Paul did not permit women to be public _____ of men or to exercise authority over a man at church. She cannot _____ or subjugate men to her will at church. Paul does not permit her to take these roles; even if elders, preachers, and other men _____ it, God does not. No person has a right to ask or to permit any female to do what is _____ to God's instructions.

To be quiet or silent (the Greek word is *hesuchia*) here means to be at rest, a spirit and an _____ of tranquility arising from within so that she causes no disturbance. They were to focus on

_____, not teaching, and to remain quiet, to say nothing. This learning was to take place with “entire submissiveness.” “Entire submissiveness,” is a complete, voluntary _____ of one’s rights or will. It is to give precedence to _____; she is to “subordinate herself in every respect.” This is not speaking merely of subjection to her husband; this is speaking broadly of women subjecting themselves to the leadership of men in the functions of the _____. “Submission” does not mean that one is inferior, or has inferior value or worth, but rather that one recognizes one’s _____ in a relationship. As we noted, Jesus was not inferior to God according to Philippians 2:5-8, but He _____ subjected Himself to his Father.

The theological basis for saying women cannot preach arises from the beginning with Adam and Eve, not a _____ bias from Paul himself. **Read I Timothy 2:13-14.** This teaching _____ God’s order of life, God’s way. According to historian Everett Ferguson, the writers in the early church history gave evidence that “Women were not _____ as elders, nor did they take public speaking roles in the assembly as prophets, teachers, or leaders in the assembly. Where women did take these roles in some of the heretical and schismatic groups, this practice was a _____ for objection to these groups.” While times change and cultures change, God’s Word, God’s Bible does not change.

We should use our talents for the Lord, but we shouldn’t assume that talents _____ us to engage in activities and roles that God never meant for us. King Saul was not a priest and he _____ when he presumptuously made a burnt offering, rather than waiting for the high priest Samuel to come (1 Samuel 13:8-14). Even though he was king, he had no _____ to make this sacrifice. By presuming that he could act without authority, Saul lost his _____ with God. God will not let an unmarried or childless man be an _____ either. It’s not a matter of _____; it’s a matter of qualifications.

Even Jesus, as the Son of God, could not _____ as a Levitical priest in the temple because He was from the tribe of Judah (Hebrews 7:14). Jesus didn’t feel _____ because he couldn’t function as a Levitical priest in the temple. Giftedness does not grant the right to _____ God’s laws. The Scriptures demand that anyone who leads must _____ the qualifications. Rather than feeling cheated over what we aren’t permitted to do, we should _____ on the things that we can and should do to serve God. And so with joy and thanksgiving let’s _____ His will and not our own.

Someone objects, “Well, isn’t being limited _____ to women?” The answer is _____. God has given women marvelous _____ in virtually every other area than in the leadership of the church. God has given women some roles that men will never be able to _____. Should men object and feel cheated? The answer is no! Our task is to _____ the work that God has given us to the best of our ability rather than _____ what God has given to someone else. In God’s eyes, every member of the body, that is the church, is _____ though they have different functions. **Read 1 Corinthians 12:14-19.** Yes, God has a _____ and a _____ for every single one!

Please let Jesus be Lord of your life. Trust His ways; they are higher than our ways. Believe in the Lord Jesus, turn from sin and selfishness to serve Him, confess Jesus Christ as the Son of God, and be baptized. Baptism is an immersion in water in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of sins. When you’re baptized, God washes away your sins and makes you His child.