

And if the bugler doesn't sound a clear call, how will the soldiers know they are being called to battle? 1ST Corinthians 14:8 NLV

FLM PRAYER STUDY #126

WOMEN IN THE MINISTRY

*For ye are all the children of God by faith in Christ Jesus. For as many of you as have been baptized into Christ have put on Christ. There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither bond nor free, there is **neither male nor female**; for ye are all one in Christ Jesus.*

Galatians 3:28

Most of the following study was based on the work of Kevin Conner in *THE CHURCH IN THE NEW TESTAMENT* and on the work of Kenneth Hagin in *THE WOMAN QUESTION*.

The Scriptural Order (Ephesians 5:23-33; 1st Corinthians 7:11; 1ST Timothy 2:13-15; 1ST Peter 3:18)

Wives submit yourselves unto your own husbands, as unto the Lord. For the husband is the head of the wife, even as Christ is the head of the church, and he is the savior of the body. Therefore, as the church is subject unto Christ, so let the wives be to their own husbands in everything. Husbands, love your wives, even as Christ also loved the church, and gave Himself for it, that He might sanctify and cleanse it with the washing of water by the word; that He might present it to Himself a glorious church, not having spot or wrinkle, or any such thing; but that it should be holy and without blemish. So ought men to love their wives as their own bodies. He that loveth his wife loveth himself. For no man ever yet hated his own flesh, but nourisheth and cherisheth it, even as the Lord the church; For we are members of His body, of His flesh, and of His bones. 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. This is a great mystery, but I speak concerning Christ and the church. Nevertheless, let every one of you in particular so love his wife, even as himself, and the wife, see that she reverences her husband. Ephesians 5:22-33

1. A husband is head of the home and serves as protector, provider, spiritual covering and authority when he is a Christian.
2. The wife is to submit to her husband.
3. The husband is to love the wife as Christ loves the Church.

This order of the man and the woman did not mean superiority of the man. It does not mean inferiority of the

woman. It did not mean inequality as persons. It simply was the Divine order in the family as God intended the family to be. Kevin Conner

The Scriptures Incorrectly Used to Discredit Women's Ministries

1. 1st Timothy 2:11, 12-*“Let the woman learn in **silence** with all **subjection**. But I suffer not a woman to teach, nor to **usurp authority** over the **man**, but to be in silence.”*
 - a. **Silence** comes from the Greek word “*Hesuchia*” meaning to keep still or peaceable, by implication, to keep one's seat or be undisturbing. Strong's says it means desistance from bustle or language. It does not mean absolute silence as used in Acts 21:40, 1st Corinthians 14:28, 34, Revelation 8:1. This word is “*sige*” meaning to hush, silence. Paul is telling the women that they are to learn in quietness and not yell out questions to their husbands on the other side of the church during the service. He is not saying that women had to be absolutely quiet in church. If he was, he would be contradicting other scripture; he would be a hypocrite since he praised women who taught, prayed, and prophesied; he would be saying that women could not sing or pray or teach Sunday School classes, and he would be denying the Biblical fact that the Holy Spirit anoints women to preach, teach, prophesy, pray, etc. The Spirit and Word always agree.
 - b. **Subjection** is the Greek word “*Hupotasso*” which speaks of the marriage relationship(Colossians 3:8, Titus 2:5) and basically is saying that the wife is to learn in submission to her husband.
 - c. **The Man** is the Greek word “*aner*”. Paul uses this word 59 times in the New Testament. Of these times, King James translates it as husband 34 times. Of the remaining 25 times, the text is clearly speaking of a husband. In this case, a better translation would be husband. Paul is

saying that a wife should not usurp authority over her husband.

- d. **Usurp Authority** is the Greek word “*Authenteo*” and is only used once in the New Testament. It means to seize and hold in possession by force and without right. Alford translates it as “to rule over.” Berkley translates it as “to dominate over.” Moffat translates it as “to dictate to.” Knox translates it as “issue commands,” and the Living Bible translates it as “lord it over.” Jack Hayford says that the intent of Paul’s instructions were to speak against an overbearing, demeaning control of a wife over her husband. He says that, if this were meant to speak of Divine structure of the Church, other terms more consistent with New Testament usage would have been employed.

2. 1st Corinthians 14:34, 35-“***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. And if they will learn anything, let them as their husbands at home; for it is a shame for women to speak in the church.***” Paul has said earlier in 1st Corinthians 11:5 that men and women may pray and prophesy in the Church.

- a. **Let your women keep silence in the churches.** Paul again is speaking of wives. He is saying that the woman should not speak out questions about the message being preached in church but wait until she gets home to ask questions of her husband.

- b. **For it is not permitted unto them to speak...For it is a shame for women to speak in the church.** There are several Greek words for speak. Three of them are *Legein* which means to deliver an ordered discourse,” *Eipien* which means to speak in ordinary conversation, and *Lalein* which means to chatter, babble, or talk in an undertone. The word used here is derived from this latter Greek word. Paul is saying that the Corinth church is in disorder because the wives are chattering among themselves and

disrupting the meeting by calling out to their husbands on the other side of the church, thus disturbing both the speaker and the hearers.

Kevin Conner concludes by saying, *“Denominations that enforce “silence” in their Churches permit their women to sing with the congregation, in solos, pray in prayer meetings, teach Sunday School classes, and even be Missionaries in heathen nations. What a contradiction this is to their stand and interpretation of Paul’s writings in both Timothy and Corinthians! Paul is simply saying that the wives must not disturb the gatherings by inconvenient asking of questions, ignorant talking, and chattering among themselves. He is not enforcing absolute silence on women in Churches.”*

Women operating in the Five Fold Ministry Offices in Scripture

And He gave some apostles, and some, prophets; and some, evangelists, and some, pastors and teachers. For the perfecting of the saints for the work of the ministry for the edifying of the body of Christ, till we all come in the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, unto a perfect man, unto the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ...Ephesians 4:11-13

Prophets

Philip, the evangelist, had four virgin daughters who prophesied.(Acts 21:9) Both Mary and Elizabeth sang prophetic songs. Anna was a prophetess. (Luke 1 and 2) Old Testament Prophetesses include Miriam, Deborah, Huldah, and Isaiah’s wife.

Evangelists

The Samaritan Woman witnessed to the men in the city, thus opening the way for Christ. (John 4)

In the Old Testament Psalm 68:11 is best translated as “Great was the company of women publishers, of women evangelists.”

Pastors

Phebe is called by the Greek word “Diakonas, which is translate “deacon” three times, “minister” twenty times, and “servant” seven times. (Romans 16:1,2)

Teachers

Priscilla, along with her husband Aquilla, were teachers of the Word commended by Luke in Acts 18:24-26.

Women in Early Church History

1. Justin Martyr, around AD 150, reports that both men and women had extraordinary gifts of the Spirit.
2. Tertullian notes that women appear in every early reference to ecclesiastical orders, two of which are Apostolic orders.
3. In the Catacombs are found representations of women clergy, and they are shown giving out the Lord's Supper.
4. Opinions vary as to when the recognized order of women clergy died out, but it seems women were evangelists and pastors and teachers and prophetesses at least through the early centuries of the church.
5. Eusebius of the 4th Century speaks of Potamania Ammias, a prophetess, in Philadelphia.

Other Interesting Facts on Biblical Women in Kevin Conner's Book

1. There is not one record of a woman ever speaking against Jesus in the Gospels.
2. In contrast to the Old Covenant where only the Levitical tribe were priests, the New Covenant says that every believer, regardless of sex, is a priest unto God. (Matthew 27:50-52; 1st Peter 2:5-9; Revelation 1:5,6; 5:9-10).
3. On the morning of the Resurrection, the FIRST announcement of Christ's resurrection was given to two women who were told to go and tell their brothers in the Lord (Matthew 28:9, 10).
4. Jesus touched and healed women. The Jews would not for fear of defilement (Matthew 9:20-22).

Life in the Garden

In the order of creation the man was to be the woman's covering, authority, headship and protection. The woman was to be a "help meet", which means a helper suitable. They were to rule together as mutual rulers. Eve was originally called, according to Kevin Conner, Adam too, and together they represented the masculine

part of the man and the feminine part of the man made in God's image. Adam did not give his wife the name Eve, which means life-giver, until after the Fall. The man and woman were co-equal when both were without sin. God did not create the woman inferior or the man superior. There was, however, divine order and Eve was deceived when she was out from under Adam's covering. Adam subordinated himself to Eve out of love for her, obeyed her and ate the forbidden fruit. Both became guilty(Romans 5:12-21).

Judgment on the Serpent(Genesis 3:14, 15; Isaiah 65:25)

1. Cursed with an irrevocable curse
2. The seed of the woman, a MAN-CHILD, would crush the serpent's head.

Judgment on the Woman(Genesis 3:16; 1st Corinthians 11:2; Ephesians 5:22)

1. Multiplied sorrow
2. Sorrow in birth and motherhood(1st Timothy 2:15)
3. Headship of man over woman(The woman had been given the Lord's command by the lips of Adam(1st Timothy 2:12-14). Thus she usurped the husband's authority.

Judgment on the Man(Genesis 3:17-19; 2:17)

1. To eat of a cursed earth in sorrow all the days of his life.
2. To work in sweat and toil and do hard labor.
3. To die and return to dust of the earth from whence he came(Ecclesiastes 2:23, 3:20, Job 21:26)
4. To pass death on to all of Adam's race because of sin had entered his seed(Romans 5:12; 1st Corinthians 15:22).

Why Does Satan Hate Women So Much

Probably because Eve, even in her sin, was the first to expose Satan as a deceiver and liar, and also because God told her that her seed, which of course is Jesus, whose Father was not earthly, would in due time crush the serpent's head(Genesis 3:15)