

# **Women in Church Leadership**

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# **Growing The Eldership**

**No New Conclusions**

**2009 - Ministries  
Leader**

**2012 - David, Craig and  
Andrew do not feel that  
to be faithful to Scripture  
you should restrict  
women from Eldership**

**Where I started - I  
believed that there were  
roles that were assigned  
to men and women**

**We See Things Thought  
a Lens, a Bias**

**Both Arguments  
Compelling**

**The scriptures that appear to restrict women in leadership are contextual to that time, and when understood in their context do not mean nor require the church to have a universal restriction on women in leadership. Therefore here at SCF we see no restriction for women to become Elders in SCF and our intention is to prayerfully seek the right women from outside of the current leadership team to join us as an Elder.**

# **The Slavery Issue**

# Adam and Eve

**Genesis 1:26-28** Then God said, "Let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness; let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, over the birds of the air, and over the cattle, over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth." So God created man in His own image; in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them. Then God blessed them, and God said to them, "Be fruitful and multiply; fill the earth and subdue it; have dominion over the fish of the sea, over the birds of the air, and over every living thing that moves on the earth."

- **Let us make man – The triune God was involved in the creation of man**
- **Man is used as a generic term to denote male and female**
- **Male and Female are part of God's image – Women are as much part of the image of God than men are.**
- **They both had a mandate to rule the earth**

**Genesis 2:20-22** So Adam gave names to all cattle, to the birds of the air, and to every beast of the field. And the Lord God caused a deep sleep to fall on Adam, and he slept; and He took one of his ribs, and closed up the flesh in its place.

**But for Adam there was not found a helper comparable to him.**

**Then the rib which the Lord God had taken from man He made into a woman, and He brought her to the man. 23 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.”**

- **Adam named all the animals but understood that they were not of his kind**
- **The word Helper is one used for God when he rescues or brings relief**
- **Adam instantly recognised who Eve was – he did not need God to tell him**

Genesis 3 16 To the woman He said:

“I will greatly multiply your sorrow and your conception;  
In pain you shall bring forth children;  
Your desire *shall be* for your husband,  
And he shall rule over you.”

17 Then to Adam He said, “Because you have heeded the voice of your wife, and have eaten from the tree of which I commanded you, saying, ‘You shall not eat of it’:

“Cursed *is* the ground for your sake;  
In toil you shall eat *of* it  
All the days of your life.

18 Both thorns and thistles it shall bring forth for you,  
And you shall eat the herb of the field.

19 In the sweat of your face you shall eat bread  
Till you return to the ground,  
For out of it you were taken;  
For dust you *are*,  
And to dust you shall return.”

- **There is a judgement upon the man and upon the serpent**
- **There is simply consequence upon the woman**
- **Your desire shall be for your husband and he will rule over you.**
- **This scripture talks of the inherent challenge between husband and wife within the home**
- **This is a husband wife consequence, not all men to all women.**

# Women in the Old Testament

- There were Prophetesses'
- Judges
- Queens
- Influential Women

**Four Hundred Years  
of Silence**

# **Jesus and Women**

- Many of Jesus close friends where women
- Mary and Martha were some of his closest friends often with him when he travelled.
- Mary sat a Jesus' feet while he taught her
- Jesus clearly taught women - Women saw him as teacher and not Lord or Master
- The way Jesus dealt with the women caught in adultery
- The women and Jesus at Simon the Pharisee's house.

# Paul and Women

- Lydia - Persuades Paul to come to her house
- Nympha - A church host
- Priscilla - A female teacher
- Paul describes women as fellow workers in Christ
- Chloe – Paul relies on information
- Paul highlights that women laboured with him in the gospel
- Phoebe – Female minister a Deacon
- Junia – Apostle/Evangelist
- Paul encourage women to pray and Prophecy

# Equal Rights in the Marriage

**1 Corinthians 7** Now concerning the things of which you wrote to me:

*It is good for a man not to touch a woman.* **2** Nevertheless, because of sexual immorality, let each man have his own wife, and let each woman have her own husband. **3** Let the husband render to his wife the affection due her, and likewise also the wife to her husband. **4** The wife does not have authority over her own body, but the husband *does*. And likewise the husband does not have authority over his own body, but the wife *does*. **5** Do not deprive one another except with consent for a time, that you may give yourselves to fasting and prayer; and come together again so that Satan does not tempt you because of your lack of self-control. **6** But I say this as a concession, not as a commandment.

**4** For the unbelieving husband is sanctified by the wife, and the unbelieving wife is sanctified by the husband; otherwise your children would be unclean, but now they are holy.

# Bible Translations

- Majority of scripture in translations align
- There are literal translations
- Thought by Thought translation
- Paraphrases - Interpretation
- Sometimes there is no English translation - context can help
- The more words that are needed, the more people discuss which words to use

# Three Churches

- All Three Cities worshiped female God's
- Corinth worshiped the goddess of Love - Aphrodite
- Ephesus worshiped the Greek God - Artemis or Diana
- Crete worshiped the Greek God - Didtynna
- Greeks treated their women differently to Jews or Romans
- Women were influential in these cities

# 1 Corinthians 14

How is it then, brethren? Whenever you come together, each of you has a psalm, has a teaching, has a tongue, has a revelation, has an interpretation. Let all things be done for edification. If anyone speaks in a tongue, *let there be* two or at the most three, *each* in turn, and let one interpret. But if there is no interpreter, let him keep silent in church, and let him speak to himself and to God. Let two or three prophets speak, and let the others judge. But if *anything* is revealed to another who sits by, let the first keep silent. For you can all prophesy one by one, that all may learn and all may be encouraged. And the spirits of the prophets are subject to the prophets. For God is not *the author* of confusion but of peace, as in all the churches of the saints.

Let your women keep silent in the churches, for they are not permitted to speak; but *they are* to be submissive, as the law also says. And if they want to learn something, let them ask their own husbands at home; for it is shameful for women to speak in church.

Or did the word of God come *originally* from you? Or *was it* you only that it reached? If anyone thinks himself to be a prophet or spiritual, let him acknowledge that the things which I write to you are the commandments of the Lord. But if anyone is ignorant, let him be ignorant.

**expletive of disassociation**



**1 Corinthians 14:34-36 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 ask their husbands at home: for it is a shame for women to speak in the church. *What!!!??* came the word of God out from you? or came it unto you only?..... (emphasis added)**

# 1 Timothy 2

I desire therefore that the men pray everywhere, lifting up holy hands, without wrath and doubting; in like manner also, that the women adorn themselves in modest apparel, with propriety and moderation, not with braided hair or gold or pearls or costly clothing, 10 but, which is proper for women professing godliness, with good works. Let a woman learn in silence with all submission. 12 And I do not permit a woman to teach or to have authority over a man, but to be in silence. For Adam was formed first, then Eve. And Adam was not deceived, but the woman being deceived, fell into transgression. 15 Nevertheless she will be saved in childbearing if they continue in faith, love, and holiness, with self-control

**AKJV 12 But I suffer not a woman to teach, nor to usurp authority over the man, but to be in silence.**

**ASV 12 But I permit not a woman to teach, nor to have dominion over a man, but to be in quietness.**

**KJV 12 But I suffer not a woman to teach, nor to usurp authority over the man, but to be in silence.**

# 1 Corinthians 11

2 Now I praise you, brethren, that you remember me in all things and keep the traditions just as I delivered *them* to you. 3 But I want you to know that the head of every man is Christ, the head of woman *is* man, and the head of Christ *is* God. 4 Every man praying or prophesying, having *his* head covered, dishonors his head. 5 But every woman who prays or prophesies with *her* head uncovered dishonors her head, for that is one and the same as if her head were shaved. 6 For if a woman is not covered, let her also be shorn. But if it is shameful for a woman to be shorn or shaved, let her be covered. 7 For a man indeed ought not to cover *his* head, since he is the image and glory of God; but woman is the glory of man. 8 For man is not from woman, but woman from man. 9 Nor was man created for the woman, but woman for the man. 10 For this reason the woman ought to have *a symbol of* authority on *her* head, because of the angels.

11 Nevertheless, neither *is* man independent of woman, nor woman independent of man, in the Lord. 12 For as woman *came* from man, even so man also *comes* through woman; but all things are from God.

# **Greek Words**

**Gyne**

**Aner**

# **If it is hierarchy, then**

**God - Christ - Ephesians 1:20-21**

**Christ - Man - Ephesians 2:6**

**How should man continue this pattern??**

# Elders and Deacons

2 A bishop then must be blameless, the husband of one wife, temperate, sober-minded, of good behaviour, hospitable, able to teach; 3 not given to wine, not violent, not greedy for money,[b] but gentle, not quarrelsome, not covetous; 4 one who rules his own house well, having *his* children in submission with all reverence 5 (for if a man does not know how to rule his own house, how will he take care of the church of God?); 6 not a novice, lest being puffed up with pride he fall into the *same* condemnation as the devil. 7 Moreover he must have a good testimony among those who are outside, lest he fall into reproach and the snare of the devil.

8 Likewise deacons *must be* reverent, not double-tongued, not given to much wine, not greedy for money, 9 holding the mystery of the faith with a pure conscience. 10 But let these also first be tested; then let them serve as deacons, being *found* blameless. 11 Likewise, *their wives must be* reverent, not slanderers, temperate, faithful in all things. 12 Let deacons be the husbands of one wife, ruling *their* children and their own houses well. 13 For those who have served well as deacons obtain for themselves a good standing and great boldness in the faith which is in Christ Jesus.

*'We did what we thought was right in our situation for the sake of the spread of the gospel. The spread of the gospel is still paramount, but your day is not ours. We refused to bring discredit on the gospel by an untimely and intemperate rush for freedom. See that you do not bring discredit on the same gospel by denying a freedom whose time has long come !'*

# Prayer