

SOME THINGS ABOUT WOMEN

I. Women were God's idea, and were made in His image.

“And God said, Let us make man in our image, after our likeness: and let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, and over cattle, and over all the earth, and over every creeping thing that creepeth upon the earth.

So God created man in his own image, in the image of God created he him; male and female created he them”-Genesis 1:26 & 27.

I doubt seriously that anyone is able to fully understand what is meant by man being made in God's image; but see Colossians 3:10.

“And have put on the new man, which is renewed in knowledge after the image of him that created him.”

II. Women are not inferior to men!

A. Being inferior to someone and being in subjection to someone are not the same!

The scriptures make it clear that there are areas where women are to be in subjection to men, but that doesn't mean they are inferior to men!

Christ is in subjection to God, but He is not inferior to God!

Children are to be in obedience to their parents, but they are not inferior beings!

Christ was in submission to the Roman authorities, but he certainly wasn't inferior to them!

III. Women are weaker than men physically

“Likewise, ye husbands, dwell with them according to knowledge, giving honour unto the wife, as unto the weaker vessel, and as heirs together of the grace of life, that your prayers be not hindered”-I Peter 3:7.

As we see in the text before us, a GREAT responsibility rests upon the husband because of the wife’s bodily weakness!

Because she is a weaker vessel, the responsibility rests upon the husband to do the things in life requiring more strength!

The prayers of a husband who does not fulfill his obligation to his wife are “hindered!”

Brother Abe Lincoln used to say of such a man, “His prayers never go higher than the rooftop!”

The husband is reminded in the text that he and his wife are “heirs together of the grace of life!”

I have never agreed with some of my fellow gospel preachers that women are emotionally weaker!

The scripture nowhere teaches this, and I've seen homes where the strongest mate emotionally was the wife!

Women are certainly not weaker than the man from a spiritual or intellectual vantage point!

Don't we see evidence of these truths every day?

IV. From an heirship and son-ship vantage point, women are equal to men!

“For ye are all the children of God through 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.

***And if ye be Christ's, then are ye Abraham's seed, and heirs according to the promise”-*
Galatians 3:26-29.**

V. In past history, women have been given prophetic powers (from the time of Miriam until about 70 AD).

A. Miriam-Exodus 15:20

B. Deborah-Judges 4:4

B. Huldah-II Chronicles 34:22

C. Phillip's daughters-Acts 21:8, 9

D. Anna-Luke 2:36

“I will pour out of my Spirit upon all flesh: and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy”-Acts 2:17.

It is certain that God didn't give the gift of prophecy to women and expect them not to use it!!

VI. Apparently women have been given civil offices.

A. Deborah was a judge-Judges 4:4

B. The Queen of Sheba-I Kings 10:1

C. Candace, queen of Ethiopia-Acts 8:27

“This matter is by the decree of the watchers, and the demand by the word of the holy ones: to the intent that the living may know that the most high ruleth in kingdom of men, and giveth it to whomsoever he will, and setteth up over it the basest (low, base, contemptible) of men.”-Daniel 4:17.

“And all the inhabitants of the earth are reputed as nothing: and he doeth according to his will in the army of heaven, and among the inhabitants of the earth: and none can stay his hand, or say unto him, What doest thou?”-Daniel 4:35.

VII. Women have been authorized by God to teach in certain contexts!

A. Older women are commanded to teach the younger women-Titus 2:3.

B. Women were certainly expected to participate in the teaching of children at home-Deuteronomy 6:4-7; Ephesians 6:1-4.

C. Huldah taught Hilkiah and four other men in a non-assembly context-II Chronicles 34:20-28.

D. Priscilla apparently was an excellent teacher and participated with her husband in teaching Apollos in a private context-see Acts 18:24-26.

VIII. Christian women are forbidden to teach in a mixed-gender assembly!

A. *“If therefore the whole church be gathered together in one place”-I Corinthians 14:23.* So the instructions given by Paul in chapter 14 have to do with a gathering of both males and females!

B. At least 21 times in I Corinthians 14, Paul refers to one who is speaking to the assembly of Christians.

C. Its easy to determine that the one who spoke was “leading the assembly” in either teaching, singing, or praying!

D. In such a context, the women were forbidden by God to speak!

E. *“Let your women keep silence in the churches: for it is not permitted for them to speak; but they are commanded to be under obedience (subjection, ASV), as also saith the law”-I Corinthians 14:34.*

F. What does the phrase “keep silence in the churches” mean?

“But if there be no interpreter, let him keep silence in the church; and let him speak to himself, and to God.

Let the prophets speak two or three, and let the other judge (discern).

If any thing be revealed to another that sitteth by, let the first hold his peace (keep silence, ASV)”-I Corinthians 14:28-30.

G. One needs to observe that when the tongue speaker and prophets were commanded to “keep silence,” there was a certain condition attached by the word “if;” however, the command for the women “to keep silence in the churches” does not come with a condition!

IX. Why does God prohibit Christian women to keep silence in the assemblies?

A. Because it is commanded in the NT era by the apostle Paul in I Corinthians 14:35

B. Because silence in mixed-gender assemblies was also taught by the law (Moses' law is understood)! The end of verse 35 says, "As also saith the law!"

C. Beyond this, Paul gives 2 more points in I Timothy 2:11-15.

"Let the women learn in silence with all subjection. But I suffer a woman not to teach, nor to usurp authority over the man, but to be in silence.

For Adam was first formed, then Eve.

And Adam was not deceived, but the woman being deceived was in transgression.

Notwithstanding she shall be saved in childbearing, if they continue in faith and love and holiness with sobriety."

X. Close

I hope this lesson has helped us all!

I know there are lots of things that could have been covered that weren't, and that I haven't answered all the questions you may have; but it is impossible to cover everything in one lesson!

Women are precious creatures of God, and are used by Him in a very powerful way in many different roles, but they are forbidden by Him to teach when the church is assembled together in one place!

May God help us all to honor Him in His teaching!!