

Liberalism in the Church (Role of Women)

I. Review

A. Major causes of liberalism in the Church

- i. Fear of man (Prov. 29:25)
 1. Ear-tickling sermons (Isa. 30:9-10; 2Tim. 4:3-4)
 2. Paul spoke against being men-pleasers (Gal. 1:10)
- ii. Lack of knowledge (Hosea 4:6)

B. According to 1Corinthians 14, God's assembly is to be...

- i. A place where God's people are being built-up, encouraged and consoled through the teaching of God's Word (vv. 1-5, 12, 26)
- ii. A place that promotes understanding (vv. 14-17)
- iii. A place that convicts sinners of sin (vv. 24-25)
- iv. A place where things are done decently and in order (vs. 40)

II. Culture vs. God's Word (part 1)

A. Every significant movement in society – to some degree – has seeped into the Church:

- i. Culture, as opposed to the Word of God, has influenced parents on how to discipline their children.
- ii. The feminist movement has influenced Church leaders to re-define the role of women in the Church.
- iii. But are we to adapt to culture or to the Bible?
- iv. And what does God's Word say in regards to women in the Church?

1. First, we need to realize that women taught:

- a. Women are included in the proclaiming of the gospel (Mark 16:15)
- b. Priscilla, along with her husband, Aquila, was involved in explaining the way of the Lord more accurately to Apollos (Acts 18:26)
- c. Philip, the evangelist, had 4 daughters who prophesied (Acts 21:9)
- d. There were some women at the Corinthian church who prophesied (1Cor. 11:5)

2. But their instructive capacity was restricted by the Lord

- a. In 1Corinthians 14, the context is public teaching in the assembly
 - i. Prophesying, tongues, interpretation all involved public teaching
 - ii. When Paul said the women are to be silent (vs. 34), he was referring to public teaching.

1. The term "*silent*" does not imply absolute silence

- a. For example, in verse 28, Paul says if there is no one to interpret him who speaks in a tongue, then that brother should "*keep silent in Church.*"
- b. Does this mean he should not join in singing?
No!
- c. He simply is to "*keep silent*" in terms of publically speaking in tongues.
- d. In the same way, women are to be "*silent*" when it comes to public teaching.

2. Allowing a woman to publically address the Church is considered to be a “*shameful*” act by the Lord (vs. 35).

a. Are we to promote what is “shameful?”

b. Those who do not recognize this as God’s instruction will not be recognized by the Lord.

i. There are some that say 1Corinthians 14’s instruction to the women was of a cultural matter.

ii. This is not true, since Paul says in verse 37 that this is a commandment of the Lord, not a “cultural” tradition.

iii. Comparing 1Corinthians 14:32 to 1Timothy 2:12

Women not to speak

Keep silent/subject

As the Law says

Women not to teach

Be quiet/subject

Adam was created first

iv. Speaking = public teaching (not singing)

v. God’s reasons for this:

1. Adam was the first created

2. Eve became the first sinner

B. Some objections:

i. Galatians 3:28, “*There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free, there is no male and female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus.*”

1. Some try to use this verse to say since there is no male and female in Christ, therefore, a woman can be a church leader.

2. This verse is not speaking of church structure but of salvation.

ii. Does this teaching belittle women?

1. Did it belittle Jesus when He said the Father was greater than He (John 14:28)?

2. Not having a place in leadership does not make a woman less important or inferior!

a. In a family, the husband, the wife, and the child are all equally important to God, but their roles are different.

b. In the Church, God has set up an order the same way He set up a family: The chain of command is Jesus, the husband, the wife, the children.

iii. Wasn’t Phoebe a deaconess (Romans 16:1)?

1. The Greek word “*diakonos*” has a broad meaning: it could mean “servant” or “minister.”

2. But the office of deacon as per 1Timothy 3:12 is to be held by a HUSBAND of one wife, NOT a wife of one husband!

C. The world seeks to impose its value on the Church to conform the Church to its way!

i. The Church should never appease those of the world, but rather, the Church must speak the truth in love and be conformed to the Scriptures, not to man.