

THE ROLE OF WOMEN IN MINISTRY AND LEADERSHIP IN A LOCAL CHURCH

THE *PURPOSE* OF GOD: CREATION ➡ ISRAEL ➡ CHURCH ➡ ETERNITY.

- ETERNITY:*
- This will reveal the purpose of God.
 - All believers will be **SONS OF GOD**; each will have a glorified **body** like that of Jesus (Phil. 3:21; Rm. 8:23).
 - Collectively all believers will constitute the **bride** of Christ.
 - Marriage and procreation will cease (Mt. 22:30).
 - We will be **individually** distinct.
 - We will be rewarded **individually** according to our life in this world.
 - We must understand how many thousands upon thousands of believers there will be (i.e., final harvest).

THE *PROCESS* (OLD TESTAMENT AND CHURCH AGE):

- Satan is committed to corrupt/hinder and destroy God's purpose. This began at the fall of man.
- We must begin at creation in order to understand God's foundation truths and principles by which He will accomplish His purpose (Eph. 1:18).
- Creation of man was the **start** of a **mystery**; a theological mystery representing Christ and His bride, the church. To understand this mystery we need **revelation**; to explain the mystery, we require a **biblical exegesis** of scripture.

THE *BEGINNING* (Gen. 1:26-27):

(1) Male and female bear the image of God.

(2) They are equal in *VALUE, POTENTIAL AND DESTINY*.

(3) They are NOT equal in function; equality does not mean interchangeability.

(4) They were called to rule the earth *together*, not either of them separately.

(5) Sexuality at creation has a *spiritual* significance; the words male and female is never used of any other created creature.

• GEN. 2:15-25 (The following facts are important):

(1) Man was made from dust; woman was made from man.

(2) God breathed into man; He did *not* breath into woman.

(3) Woman was made *after* man; man had a “first born” position denoting headship.

(4) Woman was made for man 1 Cor. 11:8-9. She was a “suitable helper” for him. She *completed* man for what he was to do. Her primary function was in *relationship* to man.

(5) Man named all created land animals and birds; he also named woman.

(6) Man was commanded not to eat of the tree of knowledge of good and evil *before* woman was created.

(7) The relationship of man and woman is to reflect the relationship of God and His people. God and man bear the same image but are not equal; man and woman bear the same

image but are different; they are not interchangeable just as God and man are not interchangeable. Man and woman are like God, but unlike each other. Thus, they are both equal, but unequal. This inequality is reflected by God who reveals Himself in *male* terms: He is our *Father*, not our mother; He is our *King*, not our queen.

- GEN. 3:1-19:

(1) Woman was deceived, man was not deceived (1 Tim. 2:14).

(2) Man was held responsible (Rm. 5:12, 19). Theologically, he was the first to sin.

(3) “...*and he shall rule over you...*,” were not words of punishment, they simply expressed God’s order.

ISRAEL:

- The Old Testament was *patriarchal*. During the patriarchs (Abraham to Joseph), God identifies Himself as the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob (not of Sarah, Rebekah and Rachel).
- The prophets (Moses to Samuel). During this period, Deborah judged Israel.
- Kings (Saul to Zedekiah). There were no queens.
- Priests (Zerrubabel to Caiaphas). They were all males. Women were *not* taught by Rabbi’s. They were segregated from men in worship, and were often *not* honored properly by priests.

THE GOSPELS (*JESUS*):

(1) His relationship with, and His ministry to women, was *UNIQUE* in Jewish history. He treated women with respect

unknown by the priesthood. He received ministry *from* women. Women were *first* to see Him after His resurrection, and were *last* to see Him at the cross.

(2) He never called women to follow Him, but He allowed them to do so.

(3) He announced *NO* basic change to the roles of men and women. His attitudes, actions and words are *totally consistent* with creation.

(4) The 12 and 70 apostles were men; there were only men at His transfiguration, Gethsamene, the last supper and His ascension.

THE EPISTLES (God's people are now spirit filled. The church is the last process step to complete the purpose of God.):

(1) Women played a role in extending the kingdom of God (Acts 16:14; 17:4, 12, 34; Rm. 16:1-15; 1 Cor. 9:5; Philip. 4:3).

(2) Priscilla helped to enlighten Apollos (Acts 18:24-26).

(3) Doctrinal issues and teaching were handled by the apostles (Acts 15).

• GAL. 3:23-29:

(1) "...neither male or female..." does not mean that men and women have no physical difference, but that there is *no* difference to their position in Christ (i.e., "you are all *ONE* in Christ Jesus").

(2) All believers are *sons of God* (Gal. 3:26). All believers are *equal heirs* in the kingdom (Gal. 3:29).

Headship is *essential and necessary until* the purpose of God is achieved.

- 1 Cor. 15:24-28:

This is the basis of: “...*but I want you to understand that Christ is the head of every man, and man is the head of woman, and God is the head of Christ.*”

- EPH. 5:21-33:

(1) The Christian family is the *nuclear unit* of the church, and as such, is to express the mystery that leads to God’s purpose.

LOVE-SUBMISSION-MATURITY IN HOLINESS-PROCREATION

(The church will only be as *strong spiritually* as its families are!!)

- 1 PET. 3:1-9:

(1) HEART/SUBMISSION: “...let it be the *hidden* person of the *heart*, with the imperishable quality of a *gentle and quiet* spirit, which is precious in the sight of God.”

(2) RELATIONSHIP: “...let *all* be *harmonious*, sympathetic, brotherly, kindhearted, and humble in spirit.”

Marriage is ***NOT*** a dictatorship or a democracy. The wife contributes to her husband’s call in God so that they stand as *one complete* ministry; a helper who completes and complements her husband.

- ***MINISTRY OF WOMEN:***

(1) *All* Spiritual gifts; signs and wonders; preaching and witnessing to the lost.

(2) Teaching (Titus 2:3-5; Prov. 31:10-30): Focus is on the family, through instruction to younger women.

(3) There is no record in the book of Acts of a woman *teaching* a congregation of believers.

(4) 1 TIM. 2:11-13: The emphasis is on women learning.

***THE FAMILY / HOME-HER HUSBAND'S CALLING /
MINISTRY-EVANGELISM-BODY MINISTRY-PRAYER / WORSHIP***

- ***GOVERNMENT*** (1 Tim. 3:1-7; Titus 1:5-9): These qualifications apply to specific men.
- ***EXCEPTIONS*** - The sovereignty of God.
Widows, Single Sisters, Single Moms, Divorced Women
(1 Cor. 7:34-35, 39-40; 1Tim. 5:3-14)

SATAN'S ***STRATEGY*** OF EVIL (Eph. 6:10-12; 1 Tim. 4:1-3; 2 Tim. 3:1-5):

- EDEN
- GEN. 6:1-9*; NOAH
- JOSHUA 10:32-40; 11:22; 14:9-15*
- DESTRUCTION OF CHILDREN (MOSES; JESUS; TODAY)
- SPIRIT OF JEZEBEL
- NEW AGE (SELF LOVE, SELF ESTEEM, SELF ACTUALIZATION, HOMOSEXUALITY, DESTRUCTION OF THE HOME).

* *TO CORRUPT PROCREATION.*

(NEPHILIM, ANAKIN, ZAZUMMIN, RAPHAIM, EMIM)