

“Woman To Woman” *Does God Have A Role For Me?*

We live in a world of confusion and chaos! What's a woman to do? We are inundated with worldly admonitions to be everything to everyone: Wife, Mother, Professional Worker outside the home, Housekeeper within the home...and the list goes on. So many perceived responsibilities, and so little time. But what does **God** expect of us, dear friend? Have you considered that? Just what exactly does He want us to be? That is the most important question that we need to be asking. There is only one way to find the answer and that is to look to His Holy Word and see what He has to say about the role of women.

We see in the book of Genesis that God made woman from man, and for man. She came from the rib of man and was designed by God to be man's help meet (Genesis 2:18-24). Strong's Greek/Hebrew Dictionary defines the words help meet as a combination of two Hebrew words, *ezer*, meaning "aid" and *azar*, meaning "help or succor." Thus, woman was made by God to stand beside her husband and help or aid him. Man was to cleave unto her and they were to become one flesh. They were to be physically, socially, emotionally and most importantly, spiritually in tune to one another. That is the divine plan prescribed for us, ladies. That was His plan from the beginning and it is still His plan for us today. The apostle Paul tells us in 1 Corinthians 11:8-9 "For the man is not of the woman; but the woman of the man. Neither was the man created for the woman; but the woman for the man." The role of woman is a submissive one. Many today find that to be an offensive statement, however, if we examine the Scriptures carefully, we find that the role of woman is not only a beautiful one that allows us to

glorify the Father, but also one that entitles us to respect, honor, and love. It does not, and never has meant that woman is inferior to man, but contrariwise, she is his complement. In light of this, let us look at some Scriptures that might shine a light upon the proper role of the woman in the home and in the church.

Ephesians 5:22 states that wives are to submit themselves unto their own husbands as unto the Lord. This is not a demeaning passage, for if we continue on reading in verses 23-29, we see that we are **all** to submit to Christ, including our husbands. That is our Christian duty, the purpose of which is so Christ will be able to present His church to the Father, holy, blameless and without spot, wrinkle or blemish. In turn, husbands are to love their wives as Christ loved the church; so much so, that He gave His life for it. Submission to our husbands is a command of God, not an option.

We also see in 1 Timothy 2:11-14 that women are commanded to be silent, to be in subjection to the men, and they are not to usurp authority over the men. Does this seem harsh to you? Some would contend that it is. As we continue to read and study, Paul gives us the reason for this statement in verses 13-14: "For Adam was first formed, then Eve. And Adam was not deceived, but the woman being deceived was in the transgression." Adam was created first. It was God's plan from the beginning, that man would be the head of the household and that woman would be His help meet. He could have created woman first, but that was not His plan. Couple that with the fact that Eve was the first to sin, and her sin was committed because she was deceived by Satan. Most everyone is familiar with the story of Adam and Eve in the garden. God had forbidden the first couple to eat of the tree of knowledge of good and evil, but when Satan tempted Eve, she was beguiled

and did eat. Then she encouraged her husband to eat also. Eve was deceived by Satan. Adam followed his wife in sin, but Eve was the one who chose to listen to Satan instead of God.

In the infancy of the church, before we had the written Word of God completely compiled, spiritual gifts were given by the Holy Spirit to enable the spread of the gospel. During that time when men and women assembled to hear the Word of God, the women were told to keep their silence in the churches. They were not permitted to speak, but were commanded to be under obedience (1 Corinthians 14:34). Again, this is a command from God that the inspired writer, Paul penned. It was relevant then and it is relevant and applicable today.

We have examples of women teaching throughout the New Testament. We see the older women commanded to teach the younger women in Titus 2: 3-5. Yes, women are commanded to teach, but in every instance we see them teaching within the confines that God gives them. They are told specifically to teach the younger women and the children. Timothy's mother and grandmother, Eunice and Lois taught him from his youth up (1 Timothy 1:5). Older women are to guide and teach the younger women. We have no examples whatsoever of any women in the New Testament teaching in a mixed audience of both males and females, or in a worship service.

Given this information, which comes from the Bible, the question that begs answering is, "Why, then, are there so many women preachers in denominations today?" Yes, friends, why are there? This has **never** been commanded or sanctioned by God. We have seen from the Scriptures that just the opposite is true. In every case where the gospel is being preached we see men doing the preaching and teaching. We see women helping their spouses, yet never in a position

of authority. We have no New Testament Bible examples of women asserting authority over a man and God condoning that action. If we believe the Bible is the verbal plenary inspired Word of God, and that **it** is our only guide (as we should), then we must conclude that those women who are preaching and those who are teaching in audiences where men are present, are erring. Women have no authority from God to be preachers, and they are not allowed to teach men in a public manner with the endorsement of God. We can thus determine it is sin and it will keep us from heaven if we practice such or participate in worship where that is allowed.

Although some may find that the woman's role is too restrictive, they need to realize that the restrictions placed upon the woman were put there by God, not man. "For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways, my ways, saith the Lord" (Isaiah 55:8). That does not make woman a "second class citizen" in the kingdom of God, but merely one who is functioning in her God-given role. Is she inferior to her male counterpart? Absolutely not! As a matter of fact, the apostle Paul tells us, "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). We are all equal in God's kingdom, but we were designed to function in different roles. Once we understand our role, we should embrace it and realize that it is a blessing to be able to serve the Lord in the capacity that He has delegated to us.

There are so many areas in which woman can serve the Heavenly Father, that one could spend a lifetime of servitude and still only touch the hem of the garment in our service. When a woman is fulfilling her God-given role as Christian, wife, mother, daughter, friend, or sister in Christ, she has

her work cut out for her. As she goes through each busy day serving Him and studying His Word, growing in grace and knowledge, she will be an example of godliness that will be pleasing to the Father. She is not to be "Superwoman," but she is to be a child of God who knows and understands her role in the home, the church and the community, because she has read and understood God's Word. She will be busy about the Lord's business, blooming in her rightful place as a Christian, wife, mother, Bible class teacher, and servant of Christ. She will be assured that she is "...approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth" (2 Timothy 2:15), just as our Savior was approved of God by His obedience (Acts 2:22). A godly Christian woman is confident, comfortable in her role and has no desire to serve in areas where God has not given her permission.

As a child of God, I want to make sure that I am heaven-bound. Therefore, I need to consult God's Word to be certain that I am doing exactly what He has designed for me as His servant. Men must do the same. They must also function in their roles as providers, and leaders of the family and the church. When godly men are serving in their roles and women are functioning in their respective role, families will be thriving and the church will be growing in the way that God intended. We need to make sure that we are following the design that God gave us by looking at our Blueprint, the Word of God, for a "Thus Saith The Lord" in all that we do!

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