

I. Introduction.

II. God has ordained different roles for men and women.

- A. Men and women are created with equal value and importance. Ga. 3:28-29 Gen. 1:26-28  
Luke 8:1-3 2:36-38 Mark 12:43 15:40-41 16:1 Mt. 26:6-13 Jn. 4:28-30 | Pe. 3:7
- B. Men and women are interdependent. 1 Cor. 11:11-12 Gen. 2:18
- C. Equal worth does not demand identical function. Luke 2:51
  - 1. God the Son submits to the Father's headship. 1 Co. 11:3 Jn. 5:30
  - 2. God has given men and women different functions in the home and the church.  
1 Pet. 3:1-7 Eph. 5:22-23 Col. 3:18 Titus 2:5 | Cor. 11:3,7-9 14:34-35 | Tim. 2:8-15
  - 3. There is equality and subordination in other human relationships. Eph. 6:1-9  
Luke 2:51 Col. 3:22-23: | Pet. 2:13-18 Heb. 13:17 | Thess. 5:12-13 Rom. 13:1ff
  - 4. Authority is given to serve, not to lord it over subordinates. John 13:1ff
- D. God has established male leaders throughout the Scriptures. Gen. 2:18f | Ti. 2:13  
1 Co. 11:9 | Tim. 3:1-2,8 Acts 6:5

III. How are godly women to adorn themselves? | Tim. 2:9-10 | Pet. 3:3-4

- A. Don't seek to draw attention to yourself by what you wear. v. 9
  - 1. What problems might arise? Matt. 5:27-28 Isa. 3:16-24
  - 2. What attire is appropriately modest and discreet? Deut. 22:5 Rom. 12:2
  - 3. Is Paul saying that women should abandon all efforts to look nice? | Pet. 3:3 Pr. 31:22
- B. Rather adorn yourself with godliness. v. 10
  - 1. A quiet spirit. | Pet. 3:4
  - 2. Good works. v. 15 5:9-10 Gen. 2:18 Titus 2:3-5 Pr. 31:23,1,26,28,20 1:8 Luke 2:37  
| Pe. 4:9-11 Acts 16:15 Heb. 13:2 John 13:14 Mt. 23:11 Acts 9:36,38

IV. Women are not to usurp male roles of leadership in the church. | Tim.2:11-14

- A. Women are to learn with submissiveness. v. 11
- B. Women are not to teach men the scriptures. v. 12a 3:2 5:17  
In what contexts does this apply?
- C. Women are not to exercise authority over men in the church. v. 12b 3:1-2 5:17 | Co. 11:3f
- D. Some seek to find ways to get around these prohibitions.
- E. Is Paul's teaching a product of ancient patriarchal culture and therefore not applicable to the twenty-first century church? 2:13-14
  - 1. Paul's reasons for female subordination are not cultural! v. 13-14 | Co. 14:34b 11:8ff
  - 2. The order of creation reflects God's design for male headship. v. 13 Ge. 2:18  
1 Co. 11:8-10
  - 3. The Fall strengthens the necessity of male leadership. v. 14 Gen. 3:13,16-17

4. We judge our culture by scripture, not vice versa. Isa. 40:8 II Tim. 3:16 II Pet. 1:21 I Jn. 5:19 Rom. 12:2

F. Other objections:

1. Does this make women second class citizens?
  - a. This objection stems from a misunderstanding of importance and equality. Mt. 20:25-28 5:3,5 23:1-12 I Pet. 3:4 5:5 Phil. 2:5ff Pr. 31:30-31 1 Cor. 11:3
  - b. Most men are not called or qualified to teach publicly or to hold office in the church either. I Cor. 12:15-17,21-24
2. Does this principle stifle women who are gifted to teach and lead? I Cor. 14:28,30 Titus 2:3-5 II Tim. 1:5 3:15 Pr. 1:8 31:1,26
3. What if there are no men willing or able to teach or lead?
4. What about cases in which God has used women in leadership? Judges 4:4-5 II Ki. 22:14 II Chr. 34:22ff I Cor. 11:5 Acts 2:17-18 21:9 18:26 Luke 2:36 Isa. 3:4-5,12

V. Motherhood makes women significant! v. 15

A. In What sense are women saved through childbearing?

1. They are saved from the effects of the Fall by Christ who was born of a woman. Ge. 3:15,20 Gal. 4:4
2. While women can't gain prominence through preaching and leading, they can through motherhood. Phil. 1:19 Pr. 31:23,28f

B. Ordinarily, a godly woman finds fulfillment as she cares for her family. 5:14 Gen. 1:28 Ps. 127 Titus 2:3-5

C. What about single women and women without children? Mt. 19:12 I Cor. 7:7

VI. Concluding applications.

Discussion questions

1. Why do many churches encourage women to become pastors/elders?
2. How is it possible to overreact against unbiblical feminism?
3. In what ways are men and women equal?
4. Can you show from scripture that equal value does demand identical function?
5. How would you answer the objection that Paul's teaching is a product of ancient patriarchal culture and therefore does not apply to us today?
6. What reasons does Paul give for women not to teach or exercise authority in the church?
7. What can women do to serve God in the church?
8. How would you apply this passage to the question of women counseling men?
9. In what sense are women delivered (saved) through child bearing?
10. What can men do to help women to thrive in the church?