

The Woman Controversy

Just as God used both a man and a woman, Simeon and Anna, to pray and prophesy over the infant Jesus in the temple, God is raising up both men and women in this last hour to birth His purposes and plans in the earth. There has been great controversy over women in ministry. When we have His character and love there is no prejudice.

I pray this article will bring clarity and truth to your heart. Where the Spirit of the Lord is there is liberty! First of all, I want to say that I want truth to prevail, confirming the word. As a woman in ministry, I have never tried to usurp authority but quite the opposite, to refrain from it, only to move in Him (Christ) and Him alone. God has proven His word to me time and time again, so I feel I can speak truth with experience.

2 Timothy 1:9 Who has saved us, and called us with a holy calling, not according to our works, but according to His own purpose and grace, which was given us in Christ Jesus before the world began.

First of all (Secondly,) the Word says Christ Jesus has called us according to His purpose NOT man's. So, whom do we serve? I have always wondered, if I was made in His image, then why do I have such a desire to preach, teach and minister His word, if women aren't supposed to? Who birthed that desire in my heart? The Word of God says He is the **AUTHOR and FINISHER OF OUR FAITH!**

Genesis 1; 26-28 And God said, Let us make man in Our image, after our likeness: and let **THEM** have **DOMINIOM**. So God created man in His own image, in the image of God created **HE THEM; MALE AND FEMALE** created **HE THEM**. And God blessed **THEM**, and God said unto **THEM**, be fruitful, and multiply, and replenish the earth and subdue it.

Let's take a look at the word **MAN** in the Strong's Concordance, Webster's Dictionary, and Vine's Expository. Man - (ish), is indefinite, meaning "somebody" or "someone", "they", mankind, human being, male or female, humanity, without reference to sex or nationality. Sex is no barrier either to salvation or the development of Christian graces. Just as man is used figuratively in the Bible for all mankind, so is the Bride of Christ used for God's remnant and so is the church which is a feminine expression that also includes the male gender. We are one in Him and Him alone. God's plan was for men and women to have **DOMINION**, (To exercise His authority & power in the earth manifesting & glorifying Jesus Christ our Lord and Savior.), and be fruitful and multiply, replenish the earth, and **SUBDUE IT**.

HE GAVE THEM DOMINION AND AUTHORITY!!!!

Woman wasn't an afterthought, but a vital part of God's original plan. The Bible says that they were made in God's image. Together they are complete, together they are **ONE in HIM!**

We must remember the woman came out of the side of Adam. They were both named Adam (Mankind) in the garden. This is a great revelation. We must look through the eyes of God of His creation. They were both made in His image.

Genesis 5:2 He created them **MALE** and **FEMALE** and blessed **them** and called them **Mankind** in the day they were created. NKJV

Genesis 5:2 **MALE** and **FEMALE** created he them; and blessed them, and called their name Adam, in the day when they were created. KJV

We are **mankind** (MALE & FEMALE) made in His image and we are a part of the body of Christ being fitly formed for His purposes. If women are not a part of this formation of God's body, I don't think He would have said we were made in His image?? Let's prove this in scripture.

Galatians 3:26 For in Christ Jesus you are all sons of God through faith. (27) For as many (of you) as were baptized into Christ into spiritual union and communion with Christ, the anointed one (clothed yourselves with) Christ. (28) **THERE IS (NOW NO DISTINCTION), NEITHER JEW NOR GREEK, THERE IS NEITHER SLAVE OR FREE, THERE IS NOT MALE AND FEMALE; FOR YOU ARE ALL ONE IN CHRIST JESUS.** Maybe I don't read well, but if I'm reading right, the Bible says **THERE IS NOT MALE AND FEMALE; FOR YOU ARE ALL ONE IN CHRIST JESUS!!!**

Let's look at the book of Judges in the Bible and the calling of God on Deborah. It says in **Judges 4:4**, "And **Deborah**, a **prophetess**, the wife of Lapidoth, she **judged Israel** at the time." Let's look at the words **prophetess** and **judge** and see what they mean.

The word **prophetess** is the feminine of *prophet* and means, one who speaks forth or openly, a proclaimer of a divine message of revelation, direction, correction, conformation, and comfort. The office of a prophet goes beyond the realm of edification, exhortation and comfort, that will manifest through the spirit of prophecy or gift of prophecy.

Rev 19:10, spirit of prophecy, **I Corinthians 12:10**, gift of prophecy & **I Corinthians 12:28**, office of a prophet.

Luke 2:26 And there was one Anna, a prophetess, the daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Asher, she was of a great age, and had lived with a husband seven years from her virginity. (37) And she was a widow of about 84 years, which departed not from the temple, but served with fasting and prayers night and day. (38) And she coming in that instant gave thanks likewise unto the Lord, and spoke of Him to all them that looked for redemption in Jerusalem.

It says she spoke (preached) to everyone that looked for redemption!!! How did they know she was a prophet if she didn't prophesy? "She didn't depart from the temple" the Bible says. So, she must have done it in the temple and it says she spoke, ministered to everyone that was looking, searching for redemption. Sure sounds like a minister in the sanctuary ministering to God's flock, unless they were all female that came to the temple? I don't think so.

Now let's look at **Deborah** the **judge** and what it meant.

The word **judge** meant, to rule, to deliver, to judge, sitting as a judge, hearing a case, and rendering a proper verdict, to execute God's purposes and plans. The Lord raised up judges, which delivered them out of the hand of those that abused and persecuted them. It also means accomplishing a sentence. Both this concept, and those hearing the case and rendering a decision. It was not only an act of deliverance, but of a process whereby order and law are maintained within a group. This idea also is included in the concept of the judges of Israel. This activity was judicial and constituted a kind of ruling over Israel. So here we see that **Deborah** not only **judged** but was also a **prophetess**, she executed God's purpose to His people. **Deborah** and **Samuel** were the only two to carry the title of both prophet and judge. We believe the infallible word of God. Why would God allow a woman to be written about in the Bible, acknowledging her authority and anointing? If not for anything else, an example!! There was no difference from the authority and power than Samuel had. (There was no difference between Samuel's and Deborah's authority and power.) She had the same authority and power and position to execute God's purpose for a nation. In which that nation had both men and women for her to judge and direct as God led her. Not only a judge but also a prophet. Two of the most authoritative and influential positions of the Word of God given to a WOMAN also. Same calling, same position!!!

Ephesians 2:20 says, "You are built upon the foundation of the **APOSTLES** and **PROPHETS** with Christ Jesus Himself the chief Cornerstone. (21) In Him the whole structure is joined together harmoniously; and it continues to rise (grow, increase) into a holy temple in the Lord."

Ephesians 4:11 And His gifts were (varied; He Himself appointed and gave men to us,) Some to be apostles (special messengers), some prophets (inspired preachers and Expounders), some evangelists of the Gospel, some pastors and teachers.

Ephesians 4:12 His intention was the perfecting and the full equipping of the saints (His Consecrated people), (that they should do) the work of ministering toward building Up Christ's body (the church).

Now we will look at the most controversial scripture used against women preaching and teaching men. I ran across articles and messages from a reprint of "Spread the Fire", by Don & Ruth Rousu, Pastors of Vineyard Christian Fellowship in Edmonton, Alberta and also Kelly Varner the Pastor of Praise Tabernacle in Richland, North Carolina. I have prayed for years that God would give me clarity on this subject. I have studied much about the paganistic practices of Artemis and Gnostics. These materials from Pastor's Don & Ruth Rousu and Pastor Kelly Varner have brought great clarity, completing the picture to make it transparent.

1 Timothy 2:11-14, "Let a woman learn in silence in full submission. I permit no woman to teach or have authority over a man. She is to keep silent. For Adam was formed first, then Eve. And Adam was not deceived, but the woman was deceived and became a transgressor." The church had built a whole doctrine and practice on this one text. In the last few years however, valuable evidence has accumulated that the original Greek has been misunderstood and mistranslated. This mistranslation hinges on the Greek verb, *authentain*. The problem is that this

verb is found nowhere else in the Bible. Although most translators have interpreted *authentein* to mean “to usurp authority” over a man, or “to have authority” over a man, such translation violates both the context of Paul’s writing and the first century usage of the word in other literature. Research shows that the meaning of *authentein* changed dramatically over a period of 1,100 years. When we first find it in classical literature of the 6th century B.C., the word usually meant “to initiate or to be responsible for a murder.” From 200 to 300 AD, this word usually meant “to claim ownership of property”, either rightfully or wrongfully through fraud. During this period, it could also mean “to usurp power”. However, around the time the New Testament was written, the most common meaning of *authentein* was “to be, or claim to be the author or the originator of something.” They have also missed the cultural context in which Paul wrote his letter to Timothy.

Timothy was in Ephesus. **Ephesus** was the world center of **paganism governed spiritually** by the **female deity Artemis** whom the **Romans called Diana**. They taught the superiority of the female and advocated female domination of the male. The cult was characterized by sexual perversion, fertility rites, endless myths, and elaborate genealogies traced through female rather than male bloodlines. Magic and all manner of demonic activity flourished. Also present in Ephesus was a contingent of Jewish Gnostics. Gnostics acknowledged spirit guides and combined the teachings of Artemis with the teachings of the Old Testament story of Adam and Eve. In the most prevalent gnostic version of the story, Eve was the “illuminator” of mankind because she was the first to receive “true knowledge” from the serpent, whom Gnostics saw as the “savior” and revealer of truth. Gnostics believed that Eve taught this new revelation to Adam, and being the mother of all, was the progenitor of the human race. These Gnostics teachings infiltrated the church, and in writing to **Timothy Paul** encouraged him to confront the problem of false doctrines head on. He told him to forbid false teachings, and to turn away from myths and false genealogies.

1 Timothy 2:12 And I do not **permit** (Gr. #2010 allowing, permitting, give liberty) a **woman** to **teach** (Gr. #1321 instill doctrine (false doctrine that women were the origination of mankind; to teach or proclaim herself the originator of man) or to have **authority** (#831 dominates, who acts on their own authority, governs) over a **man**, but to be in **silence** (#2271 in harmony, peace, conformity, or agreement with the sound doctrine of the gospel).

Paul addressed the error of the false teachings of the goddess Diana, that women were not to teach or proclaim themselves as the originator of mankind. I believe Paul was saying “I am not allowing (present tense for that situation) a woman TO TEACH OR TO PROCLAIM HERSELF THE ORIGINATOR (Greek Strong’s #831 “authentein.”) OF MANKIND.

Do you see how this translation brings great clarity to their cultural beliefs of error that Paul was addressing that were opposing the gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ?

The word that is frequently translated “**silence**” *hesuchia*, also means harmony, peace, conformity, or agreement. I therefore suggest Paul goes on to say, “she must be in conformity, harmony, agreement,” with the scriptures and with sound teachings of the church. Paul continues in his correction saying, “**Adam was formed first, then Eve.**” This proves that Paul was

reinstating sound doctrine and truth against the false doctrine being taught that woman was the originator of humanity when Paul clearly states here that Adam, man, was created first.

1 Timothy 2:13 For Adam was formed first, and then Eve.

This statement counteracts the doctrine of Eve as progenitor. He also says Adam was not deceived, but woman was! And sinned!”

1 Timothy 2:14 And Adam was not deceived, but the woman being deceived, fell into transgression.

Paul says in 1 Timothy 2:13, “For Adam was formed first, and then Eve.” Paul continues in verse 14, “And Adam was not deceived, but the woman being deceived, fell into transgression.”

These statements directly contradict the notion that Eve was the “illuminator” and carrier of the new revelation. Now let’s read the scripture with the proper interpretation: Let a woman learn in agreement, harmony, with the scriptures and in submission with the sound teachings of the church. I permit no woman to teach or to proclaim herself the originator of man. She is to keep in harmony and peace. For Adam was formed first, then Eve. And Adam was not deceived, but the woman was deceived and became a transgressor. We can see clearly what Paul was addressing when we understand the culture and the time of history and what was taking place. Paul in the scripture was emphasizing the fact Eve was deceived first, coming against the false teachings of the Gnostics and the paganistic female deity Artemis whom the Romans called Diana that taught woman to be the superior being. There is no indication that Paul restricted women in their callings before God.

Throughout **Paul’s ministry** he speaks of **women** as **his co-laborers** in the **gospel**. He worked with **Priscilla** and her husband **Aquila**, traveling with them planting and pastoring house churches, and training the great orator, Apollos, to be more accurate in the word of God. In his letter to the Romans, **Paul** commends **Phoebe a woman leader**, to the **church of Rome**. He is sending her himself as a minister of the gospel. The Greek word for “minister” is *diakonos*, “a deacon.” It implies that Phoebe had the same status in the early church as Stephen the martyr and Philip the evangelist. In speaking of Phoebe Paul also uses the word *prostatis*, which means, “leader, overseer, or someone with stature, responsibility, and authority.”

Throughout the centuries, God has raised up remarkable women in the Body of Christ to places of leadership. They have stood in the fivefold ministry of the church as apostles, prophets, evangelists, pastors, and teachers. Dr. Paul Yonggi Cho, pastor of the largest church in the world, said that his ministry would not be what it is today if it were not for his mother-in-law and for women who were willing to pastor. He has approx. 6,000 women pastors. Kathryn Kuhlman and the blessing and the life of Christ that was expressed through her ministry of the mighty healings of God and Aimee Semple McPherson, thousands were drawn to her healing ministry. She was the senior Pastor of Angeles Temple. She preached evangelistic messages across the country.

God made mankind, male and female in His image to have dominion. YHWH is masculine and El Shaddai (Shad) is feminine revealing the completeness of God’s love for all His children. Through God’s character and nature, He reveals His procreative power and authority in the

masculine character. Through the feminine character, He reveals His nurturing love, His protection, and His conceiving power in His feminine nature. How mighty is our God? He wants us both to have His procreative power and authority but also His nurturing love for all humanity to be His conceiving chamber to execute His purposes in the earth to glorify His name. It's about seeing Jesus fully expressed in the body which He is the Head! Today there are many women in the church who reflect the character and love of Christ, who have servants' hearts and walk in humility. It is time to recognize the calling God has placed on the lives of His daughters and release them. I pray this will bring great peace and deliverance to many hearts. God wants us to live in peace and unity with each other. Jesus is love, let us love and respect each other in the callings and gifts of God to exhort the body of Christ that He may be exalted. God bless you!!

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