

# WOMEN in CHURCH – Part One

CAN WOMEN BE PASTORS OR BECOME IN AUTHORITY IN A CHURCH?



**Women  
Can't Preach  
or Speak in  
Church**



Today I will be sharing teaching from different sources on this subject so we can more clearly understand what the Bible is saying in these passages that have caused so much strife within the church.

I will start by saying if you are a man reading the verses in the Bible about women keeping silent, you read them and they have no effect on you. You take it at face value and keep humming right along. If you are a woman, however, it just doesn't make sense, especially one whom God has called into the ministry to preach and teach His Word. You think to yourself, now why would God call me into this turmoil? It is obvious that many of our churches today are still opposed to women doing anything in the church except keeping the nursery and teaching little kids.

Outside of that, don't ask and definitely don't say God has called you to preach/teach because you will come against great opposition. hmmm Why would God go against His Word? He doesn't, man does.



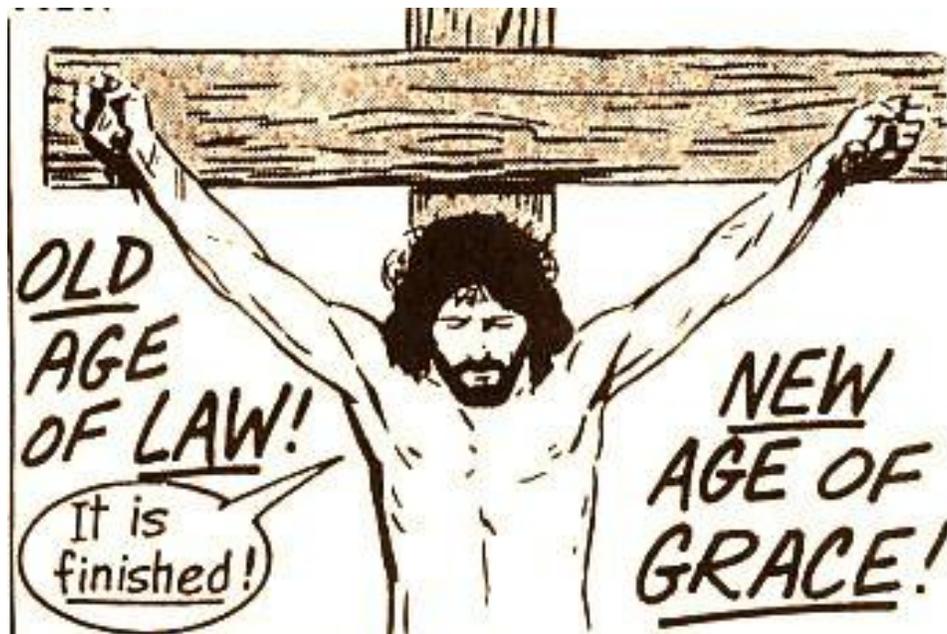
Tom Brown from Tom Brown Ministries

Is it okay for a woman to be a pastor or to even speak out in church? This happened to come up after a guest speaker came to our church and taught something that contradicts how we have always believed. This made us question this scripture. Thanks for your help.

**1 Cor. 14:34** – Let your women keep silence in the churches: for it is not permitted unto them to speak; but they are commanded to be under obedience, as also saith the law.

The fact Paul exclaims, "What? came the word of God out from you?" shows that the statement came from the Corinthian church, and they were claiming to

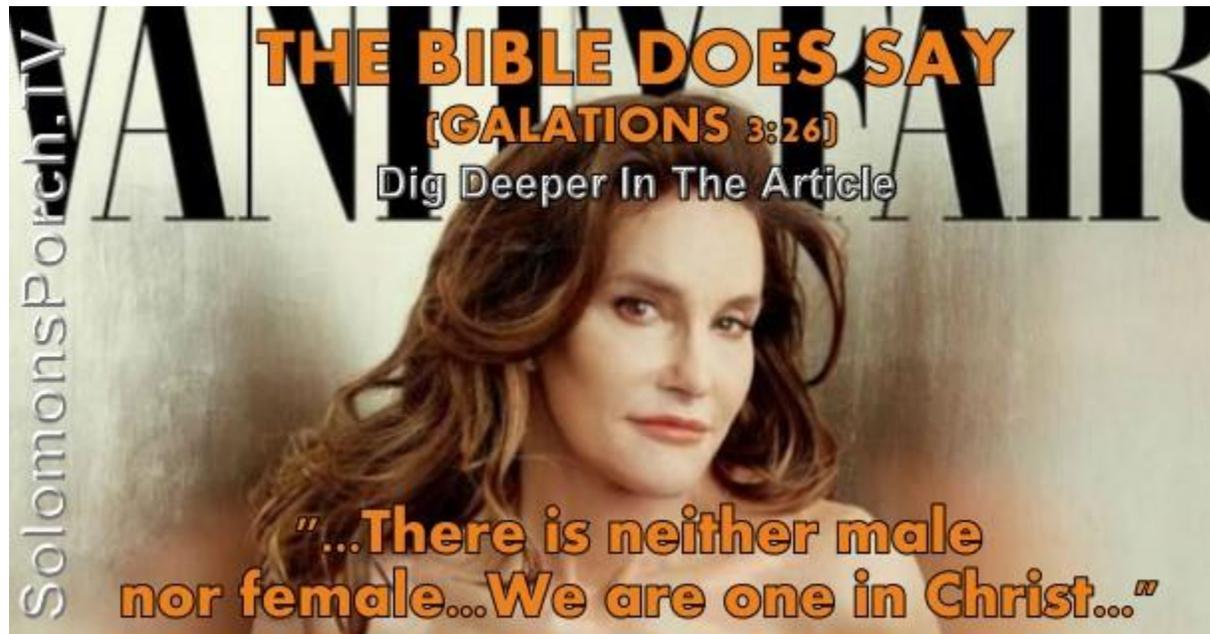
exclude the women from speaking based on the Law, which they claimed was the word of God.



Of course when you recognize that Paul did not teach the Law but Grace, you realize Paul would never use the Law to prove anything. The author of this statement about women remaining silent used the Law as the basis of this practice. "But they are commanded to be under obedience, as also saith the law." Paul would never use the Law to enforce any behavior. Paul taught that the Law was nailed to the cross (see **Ephesians 2:15** and **Colossians 2:14**), so why would he appeal to the Law to ban women? Paul did not agree with the statement but questioned it.

Paul taught the equality of women and men. He recognized cultural behaviors such as the ones in Corinth, (example: head covered), but he also says, "In the Lord, however, woman is not independent of man, nor is man independent of woman" (11:11). He differentiates between cultural norms and equality in the Lord. His famous statement in Galatians should remove all doubt as to whether or not Paul was a "woman hater" as some have claimed.

**Gal. 3:28** – 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.



Concerning the roles of women in the Lord, there is no ban from the ministry. A woman can do everything a man can do as far as the ministry is concerned. There should be equality in the ministry. I believe a woman can pastor.

Some will argue that Jesus never ordained women to be His apostles, thus, setting aside women from being in the ministry. If you argue against women being pastors by appealing to the fact that the apostles were men, then you must ban slaves and Greeks from the ministry, because Jesus only chose free men who were Jews to be His apostles. I haven't heard any Gentiles willing to step down from the ministry, because the Apostles were Jews.

Here is the way I interpret passages, which appear to discriminate. I will not use the Bible to discriminate against anyone. I always look to use the scriptures to liberate people, not place them in bondage. I think it is time to quit holding to interpretations that put people in bondage. We must be willing to admit that we don't know everything, and be willing to side in with grace. Let our conscience guide us when we are confused about certain passages.

Question: What about 1 Timothy chapter 2?

**1 Tim. 2:11-13** – Let the woman learn in silence with all subjection. But I suffer (allow) not a woman to teach, nor to usurp authority over the man, but to be in silence. For Adam was first formed, then Eve.



**Shhhhhh!**  
Don't you know women  
are not allowed to  
speak in Church?

Now I believe that men and women are equal in God's eyes, but clearly each gender has its role when it pertains to church leadership and authority.

Bible Answer: You wrote, "Clearly each gender has its role when it pertains to church leadership and authority." God's word is logical; under what logic can you apply that forbids women leadership in the church? Is there something in the female species that keeps them from communicating the Word effectively (do females have problems talking), or perhaps something in their psyche that keeps them from organizing ministry effectively (are females dumb)? I do not get it. There is nothing in church leadership requirements (preaching, organizing, and counseling) that keeps women from effectively doing their jobs. We are not asking them to be football players. There is nothing physical about church leadership that keeps women from doing the job.

This passage is not dealing with "church" authority but authority in the "home." The context proves it. Paul uses Adam and Eve as the example of authority. What relationship did Adam and Eve have? They were husband and wife, not pastor and sheep. Since there is no Greek word for husband and wife, the word "man" and

"woman" is also translated "husband" and "wife", and based on the context these words should have been translated as such.

Another Question:

**1 Tim 3:2** – A bishop then must be blameless, the husband of one wife, vigilant, sober, of good behavior given to hospitality, apt to teach;

“How can a woman be a "husband"?”

Bible Answer: When you look clearly at the statement in 1 Tim 3:2 it is a prohibition against polygamy. Someone might say, “But there is no mention of women being a bishop.” You must understand the culture in Paul's day. The ancient world was male-dominated; so rather than crusade against it, the apostles accommodated themselves to it, but they had hoped that the gospel would change society. In the meantime, however, Paul knew society would not accept women as pastors so he presumes that the pastor would be a male.

Now the reverse is true. Most societies accept the equal rights of women, yet many churches are fighting the reverse culture war by keeping women from equality in the church. I think those churches that refuse to accept the full role of women in the church actually hinder the gospel by showing prejudiced against women. Doing this is contrary to the message and life of Christ who was progressive in His view of women. Every historian agrees at this point: that Jesus was way ahead of society when it came to the equality of women. Yet, ministers are often way behind society when it comes to the role of women. I think it is a shame that governments, corporations, schools, and other institutions, are leading the way for equality, while many churches lag behind. The traditional church has been a bad example in this area.

I will also point out that in language when something applies to both sexes, often times it is written in the male gender. Ex: brethren = men and women

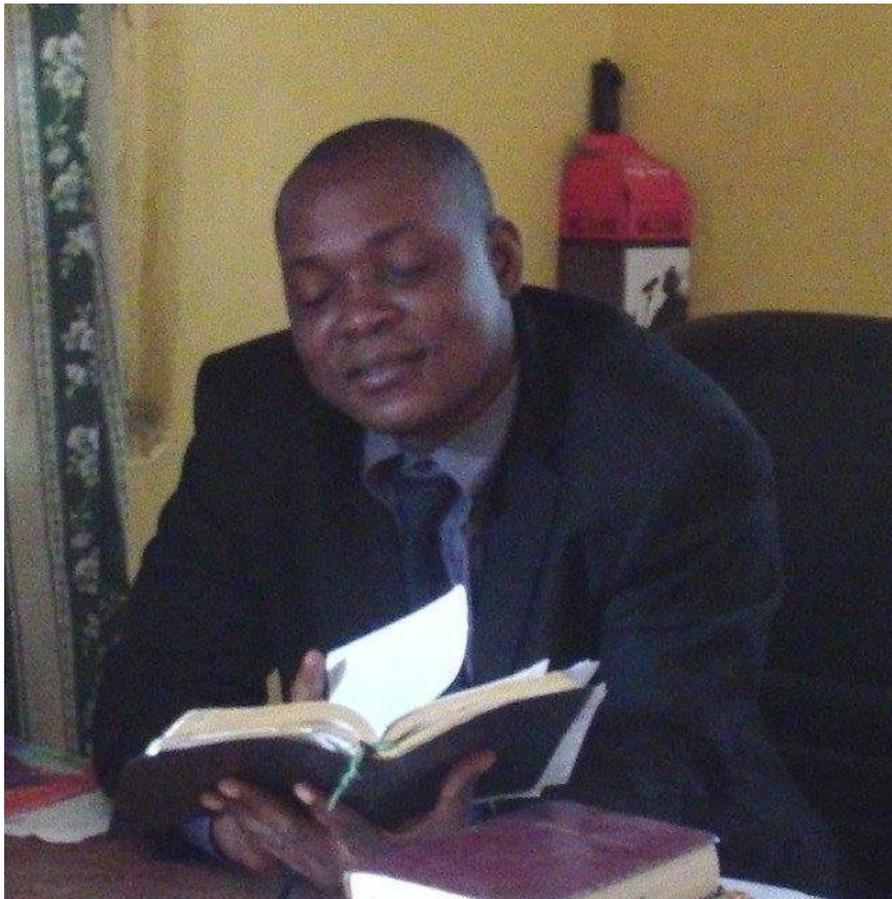
Also, recently when Pastor Philip was ordained as a Bishop of the church in Liberia I looked into the word bishop and this is what I found:

**1 Tim.3:1** – This is a true saying, If a man desire the office of a bishop, he desireth a good work.

Man – greek 1536 – if any, he that, whether any, whosoever (uh oh, a woman is a whoseoever) **John 3:16** – God so loved the world that whosoever...

1487 - if

5100 – any one, someone, a certain one, or thing



Pastor Philip Joshua of Bible Pathway Missions - Liberia Church

There are so many people who are going with the notion that women are to be silent in churches and that they should not preach, or pastor the church. Women can become pastors, church owners, great preacher and ministers of God's word. I say it to you, the women, you are not under the law again, we are

free from it. We are now under grace so you now have the freedom as we do to preach, or pastor a church. Don't be held back that you cannot fulfill the purpose for which you are called. Let them be of equal rights with the men for they can be instruments too of the Lord Jesus Christ.

This strong church bias against women in leadership is peculiar when we examine Jesus' own inclusive attitude toward the women who followed Him. Jesus affirmed the equality of women in the midst of a culture that denied them basic human rights. He called them to be His disciples during a time when religious leaders taught that it was disgraceful even to teach a woman.

**Luke 8:1-3** – And it came to pass afterward, that He went throughout every city and village, preaching and shewing the glad tidings of the Kingdom of God: and the twelve were with Him, and certain women, which had been healed of evil spirits and infirmities, Mary called Magdalene, out of whom went seven devils, and Joanna the wife of Chuza Heord's steward, and Susanna, and many others, which ministered unto Him of their substance.

These women were not just stragglers who stayed at the back of Jesus' entourage watching Him from a distance. They were Jesus' disciples in the fullest sense, and we have every reason to believe that He commissioned them to minister in His name.

When Jesus sent the Holy Spirit upon the church, as recorded in the book of Acts, many of these same women were in the upper room and received empowerment on the day of Pentecost (see **Acts 1:14; 2:1-4**). Those who were Christ's disciples had been commissioned to go into all the earth as witnesses, but they had been instructed to wait until the Holy Spirit came upon them to empower them to fulfill this commission (see **Acts 1:4-5**).

When the Holy Spirit came to fulfill this promise of empowerment for ministry, both men and women, including Jesus' own mother, received Him. This was noted by Peter, who then recited the verse from Joel's prophecy: "Your sons and your

daughters shall prophesy" (**Acts 2:17**).

If Christ commissioned only men to the ministry of the gospel, why did He send the power for that mission upon both men and women?



The women in the upper room were not the only women Jesus commissioned. In the story of His visit with the Samaritan woman at the well (**John 4:7-42**), we read that after Jesus revealed His true identity to her, the woman began telling others about Him (**vv. 28-29**). Here we see perhaps one of the clearest pictures in the Bible of Christ as an ordainer of women. **\*\*She said to the men...\*\***

The gospel account tells us that after the woman's encounter with the Savior,

"Many of the Samaritans of that city believed in Him because of [her] word" (v. 39). Why would the Messiah send this woman into her village to tell others about His power if He was opposed to the concept of women in ministry?

Interestingly, this was the first recorded instance in which Christ commissioned someone to evangelize beyond the narrow confines of the Orthodox Jewish community. To prophetically demonstrate that the gospel would ultimately spread to "Samaria, and to the end of the earth" (**Acts 1:8**), He sent a woman evangelist to preach!

We must remember the cultural context of this passage. In Palestine at the time of Christ, women were not considered reliable witnesses because they were believed to be ignorant and easily deceived.

Yet, to whom did Jesus announce His resurrection on Resurrection Morning? And whom did He commission to tell others that He had triumphed over the grave? Was it not His brave women disciples?

Because of cultural biases, Christ's male disciples did not believe the testimony of the women when they gave the astounding report about the open tomb. Yet Jesus appeared to the twelve and confirmed the witness of the women, and by doing so He intentionally refuted the idea that women could not offer faithful testimony. Indeed, He affirmed the ministry of the women and challenged His narrow-minded male followers to do the same.

Wonder why it is that the men: church leaders, bishops and pastors in Africa have no problem with a woman being in leadership and teaching within the church? Think about that the next time you wonder why we have so many dead churches here in America where we are not seeing the hand of God move, because they are.

Paul was an apostle of Jesus Christ and he started many of the first churches. He traveled to them and wrote letters to the ones he could not be at immediately.

He kept tabs on them and corrected any doctrinal errors and encouraged them in the Lord. No one is excluded by Paul. And just as an additional piece of information, the men were sitting in the synagogue and the women were sitting in the outer courts in the women's court. Someone asked me once, well why do you think the men were inside and the women weren't allowed in? I just said because the Jews were being dumb. Remember the whole time Jesus walked the earth the Pharisees and Sadducees just went around harassing Him and they had made up their own rules, they weren't even following God's law the way they were supposed to. So who do you think made that system of seating up????? Yeah, you already know.

The husband is the head of the household and the wife is in total submission to him. If they cannot reach an agreement on an issue, then the husband is the final decider. If the husband teaches something to the kids, the woman is not to discredit his teaching. Of course this is speaking of Godly teaching.

### **CLOSING**

Paul was a teacher of GRACE, and not the law. Blotting out the handwriting of ordinances (the law) that was against us, which was contrary to us, and took it out of the way, nailing it to His cross; Colossians 2:14 Go to I Cor: 14:31 and you will see that Paul says that ALL may prophesy. As a Pastor of mine used to say, ALL means ALL.

### **PRAYER**

Luke 10:1-3 & 16-19 then Great Commission Mark 16:15-18

Tom Brown Ministries on Can Women be Pastors

[http://www.tbm.org/can\\_women\\_be\\_pastors.htm](http://www.tbm.org/can_women_be_pastors.htm)

Sister Linda Kirby – study Bible on verses in Timothy: women not teaching and usurping authority

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GQgG5ubKbCM&index=6&list=PLnZ974mrg\\_PFIcRhrMi6VHdKiODUHHj-](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GQgG5ubKbCM&index=6&list=PLnZ974mrg_PFIcRhrMi6VHdKiODUHHj-)