

WOMEN in CHURCH – Part Two



Example of how Bible language defaults to masculine: (Exodus)

Did you know that God had women prophetesses in His Word? Oh yes sir!

Judges 4:4 And Deborah, a prophetess, the wife of Lapidoth, she judged Israel at that time.

She was a prophetess and a judge? That is even old testament. There was a guy named Barak (not Obama - lol) who God had called to go fight and he told her this:

Judges 4:8 - And Barak said to her, If you go with me, then I will go: but if you won't go with me, then I will not go.

Pretty important to notice that he was asking this woman to go or just forget what God had commanded him to do.

Luke 2:36 - And there was one Anna, a prophetess, the daughter of Phanuel....

Acts 21:9 - And the same man (Philip) had four daughters, virgins, which did prophesy.

Stay with me because now I'm going to speak about women pastors and there were many of them. The meaning of the New Testament word "pastor" is "shepherd," and so we think of pastors as leaders who tend a flock. Psalm 23 speaks of the Lord as our Shepherd, teaching, leading, guiding and providing for

us. Jesus called Himself the Good Shepherd, setting a model for all true spiritual leaders who lay down their lives for the sheep. When Jesus called Peter the second time after His resurrection, He asked him to "feed My sheep." Thus, pastors are to nurture people and help them to grow. While the New Testament does not tell us specifically what pastors did, we do know that both men and women provided spiritual leadership for churches which met in their homes. In the early church, almost all Christian meetings were held in private homes.

I Corinthians 1:11 - For it has been declared to me of you, my brethren, by them which are of the house of Chloe, that there are contentions among you.



ANOTHER IS LYDIA:

Acts 16:14-15,40 tells us about Lydia, Paul's first European convert to Jesus, who offered Paul hospitality in her home. Scripture relates that when Lydia was converted, her entire household was baptized and that her home became the first meeting place for European Christians. Lydia was a business woman who traded in valuable, dyed garments. The fact that Scripture mentions no husband or father indicates the high prominence of this woman. Since first-century Greek and Roman women were almost always under the legal guardianship of a husband or father, Lydia may well have been a wealthy widow or only daughter who inherited her parents' estate. Thus, she became the head of her own household. She either managed the family business or developed a business of her own after her husband's or father's death. The Book of Acts says that Lydia's entire household was baptized upon her conversion to Christ. This follows the custom of ancient Roman families. (Remember Cornelius & the keeper of the prison when Paul and Silas were set free) Under paganism, household gods were believed to protect and help the family and its enterprises. Thus, it was the duty of members of these households, relatives, slaves, and their families to worship the gods adopted by the head of the household. Roman households were often large since almost all businesses were home-based before the industrial age. Those who worked for Lydia in her business, and possibly others engaging in the trade who belonged to the dye-makers guild, would have been among her converts. By virtue of her position as head of household, Lydia had the opportunity and responsibility to lead all of its members to Christ and then to establish and lead them in the faith. This put her in a similar position to the modern-day pastor. To fulfill part of this responsibility, Lydia invited Paul to come and preach in her home. Paul and Silas established their gospel mission headquarters in Lydia's house and no doubt preached there regularly. After their release from prison, Scripture tells us that they returned to Lydia's and, having met with the brethren, exhorted them. This may have been the first church planted on European soil, and its pastor was a woman.



Priscilla and Aquila explaining the scriptures more fully to Apollos

PRISCILLA, A WOMAN PASTOR

In **Romans 16 verses 3-5**, Paul refers to Priscilla and Aquila and the church that is in their house. Priscilla and Aquila are always mentioned together in Scripture which indicates that they worked and ministered together as a husband and wife team. This is confirmed by **Acts 18:26** where both Priscilla and Aquila took Apollos aside and both explained to him the way of God more accurately. Since Paul reversed the culturally accepted manner of mentioning the husband first in his letter to them in **Romans 16:3**, he obviously wanted to make a point about her

leadership role. Many commentators conclude that Priscilla is mentioned first because she was the spiritually gifted one and the leader of the church that met in their home.



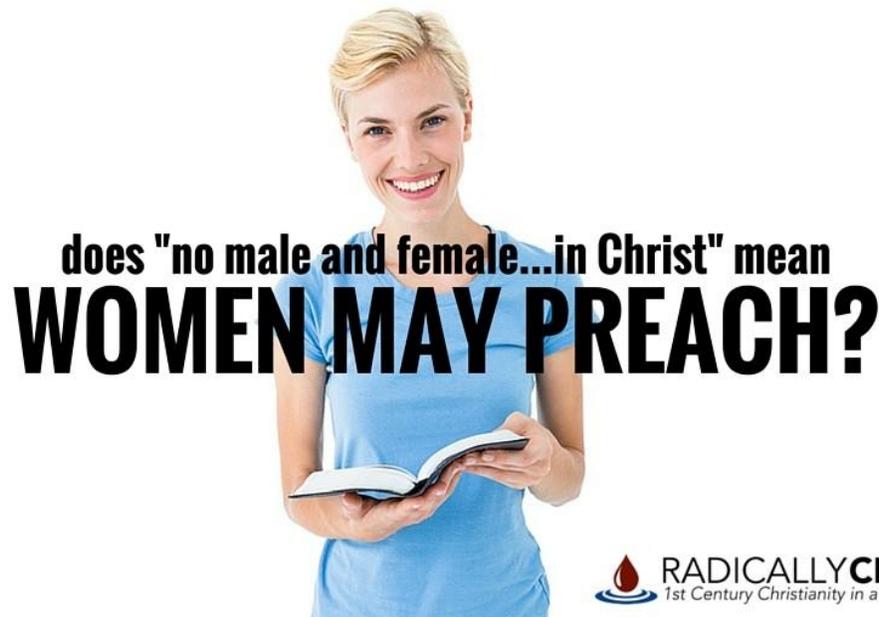
PHOEBE, A WOMAN PASTOR

In Romans 16:1 Paul commends to the church at Rome our sister Phoebe who is a servant of the church in Cenchrea. Paul refers to Phoebe as a servant which is the Greek word diakonos. Diakonos, or its verb form, is translated minister in 23 other places in the New Testament. For example, in Eph. 3:7, Paul says that he became a minister (diakonos) according to the gift of the grace of God. Phoebe, therefore, was a minister, probably a pastor, from the church in Cenchrea. This is borne out by vs. 2 where Paul refers to her as a helper of many and of myself also. The Greek word translated helper in this verse is prostates and, according to Thayer's Greek-English Lexicon, means to set over, to rule, superintend, preside over, protect, and care for. When this passage is examined apart from our traditions and prejudicial assumptions, the evidence is overwhelming that Phoebe

functioned in what today we would call pastoral ministry.

There were a few more but I think you get the point. Now here are some excellent verses that we should always think of first when it comes to everyone being able to serve God equally:

Galations 3:25-28 But after that faith is come, we are no longer under a schoolmaster (the law). For you are all the children of God by faith in Christ Jesus. For as many of you as have been baptized into Christ have put on Christ. There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither bond nor free, there is neither male nor female: for you are all one in Christ Jesus.



Revelation 1:6 - And has made us kings and priests unto God and His Father; to Him be glory and dominion forever and ever, Amen. I'm pretty sure that "us" includes the ladies.

YOUTUBE VIDEO: 7 15 12 Women's Role in the Church Comments:

Darlene Garza

A woman can preach, teach or pastor a church! In 1Tim.5:1,2 was speaking about respecting the Elders, that's means Pastors, and they included women in this group. They, tried to imply that it meant older saints, but that's error! In Titus2:1-3 is the class of regular saints , the older ones both males & females were called Aged Saints, not ever Elder! So women were being allowed to be Elders(Pastors) and males in ministry , restricted women for years!

There were five women who had their own church, and you never read where the Disciples addressed a need to appoint males in these positions. The Disciples were ordered to appoint& ordain Elders in every city, so if these women weren't the Pastors, then the Disciples disobeyed God's orders! In 1Peter5:1-3 is repeating 1Tim.5:1,2, speaking again about respecting the Elders(Pastors)! God doesn't give the Pastor a title of Elder, and call older people the same thing, God's not in confusion!

God's words only said a Wife was to be under the authority of her husband. Male preachers twist the scriptures on this topic, just like all the others! The Aged Women are to teach the other women, the women Elders can teach men. And God used Huldah & Deborah to teach and lead males, God doesn't change!

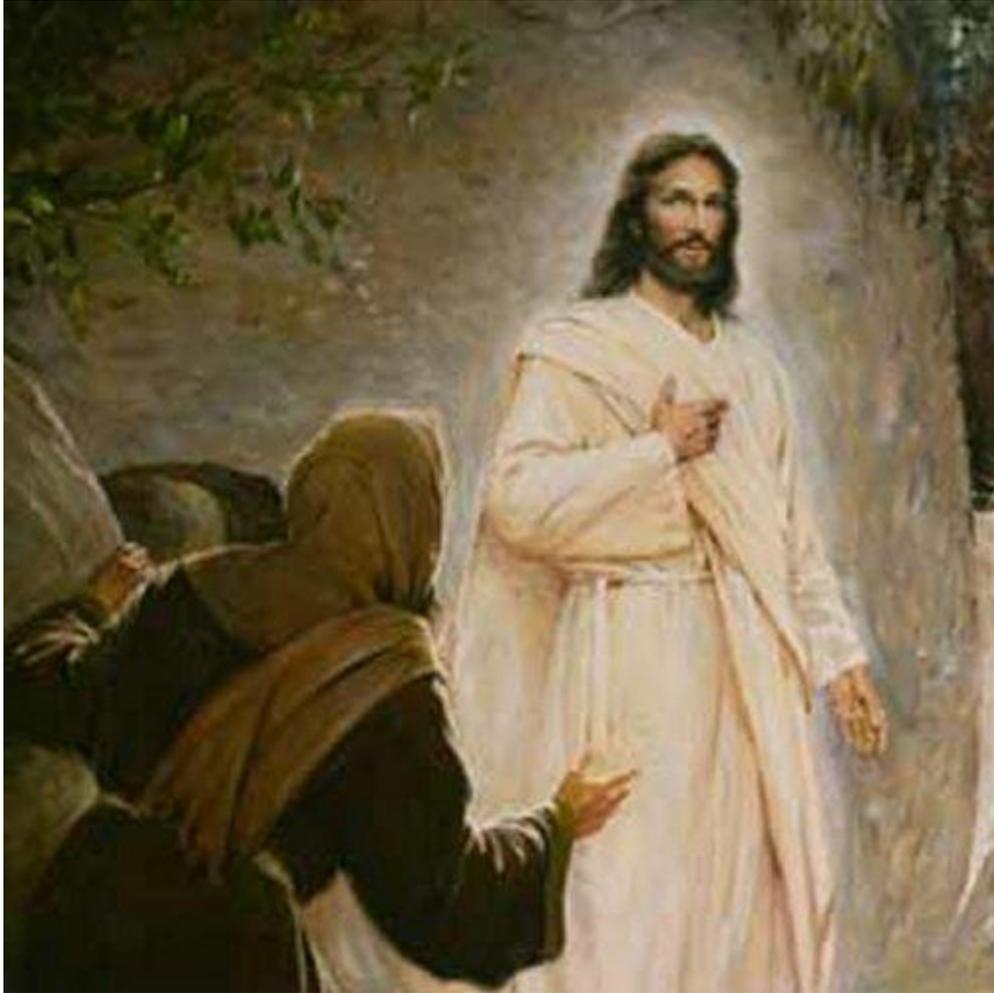
YT: Straight n' Narrow

If you read the entire chapter in Corinthians you will notice that he also tells the MEN to be silent and keep their peace and do things in order. So why is it that for the women it's translated in the literal but for the men it's NOT.

CLOSING

We must remember that ALL who have an intimate relationship with Jesus are priests right now. Let us also remember there are key moments in the Bible where Jesus chose a woman to spread the gospel. The woman at the well. Mary after seeing Jesus outside the tomb.

Jesus told Mary to go to the disciples (men) and tell them



John 20:17 – Jesus saith unto her, Touch Me not; for I am not yet ascended to My Father: but go to My brethren, and say unto them, I ascend unto My Father, and your Father; and to My God, and your God.

Jesus had no problem speaking directly to a woman and giving her instructions and expecting her to go and deliver that message to men. Was He not affirming her as a witness of the gospel? Was He not commissioning her both to go and to speak for Him? Why then do we deny women the opportunity to carry this message?

PRAYER