

Love the Truth

‘Male & Female Created He Them’

~ a brief discussion on ecclesial roles ~



‘they will turn their ears
away from the truth, and be
turned aside to fables’

Needing our attention!

A Warning

“The controversy will not go away until it has been resolved by the vast majority of evangelical groups and denominations. The pressures in the culture are so great that no church and no denomination and no parachurch organization can simply decide to avoid the controversy. Each group that has not done so will have to study this issue and reach a formal position on it.”

*Wayne Grudem, Countering the Claims of Evangelical Feminism,
p. 302-303*

Four Key Points from Paul

1 Cor. 11:9-10 & 1 Tim. 2:13-14

1. 'Adam was formed first, then Eve' [ORDER]
2. 'The man is not of the woman,
but the woman is of the man' [SOURCE]
3. 'Neither was the man created
for the woman, but the woman
for the man' [PURPOSE]
4. 'Adam was not deceived, but
but the woman being deceived' [DECEPTION]

KEY = COMPLIMENTARY ROLES (11:11)

Basic Methods

of removing the meaning

I Corinthians 11

- But it is obscure and only in one place!
- This is a large quote from Paul's opponents!
- Only relevant to first century (social relativism)

I Corinthians 14

- This is only talking about boisterous interrupting
- It likely isn't in the original text
- 'Law' is referring to a local situation - (Jews)

I Timothy 2

- Referring to Ephesus' situation (women in power)
- 'authority' = 'be violent'

F.F. Bruce's Thoughts

'the dean of evangelical scholars'

Q: *How do you interpret 1 Timothy 2:9-15, which suggests that women are not to teach?*

A: I'm not quite sure about whether 1 Timothy 2 was written by Paul. But even if it is taken as a statement by Paul himself, it is merely a statement of practice at a particular time.

Interview with F.F. Bruce, Ward & Laurel Gasque, St. Marks Review (Spring 1989)

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Male Leadership in OT/NT

The 'Big Picture'

1. Adam - in the garden
2. Levites and Priesthood
3. Key Prophets
4. Apostles (see Acts 1:21)
5. Elders (Titus and Timothy)

Unfolding Social Mores

A Warning

“We may be at the threshold of any number of behavioural and philosophical adjustments rendered plausible even in evangelical churches by unfolding social mores now that the Bible is silent for us, if not flatly wrong, on these topics [gender, roles, etc].”

Kostenberger and Shreiner, Women in the Church, p. 142

Unfolding Social Mores

A Warning

“To take one example, D.W. Jones has shown that egalitarian hermeneutics as deployed in various churches frequently “so minimise gender that once biblical feminism is embraced, it is but a small logical step to accept homosexuality.” He shows how this has happened in recent years in various denominations.”

Kostenberger and Shreiner, Women in the Church, p. 142

Re: Sister Roberts

A Second Voyage to Australia

“At the close of my remarks, the chairman called on sister Roberts to speak. This, without rising, she declined. She said she was pleased to be with them and to see their faith, but did not feel at liberty to address them (under the apostolic law which commanded that women should keep silence in the assemblies). There were addresses following...” *p. 100-101*

Need for Balance

Diary of a Voyage to Australia

“The question really was whether in the non-public working or management of things, woman’s voice might be allowed a place. The question seems an extraordinary one. The Lord’s law is never directed to the prescription of impossibilities. You can no more suppress a wise woman’s influence and a wise woman’s voice, than you can suppress the law of gravitation...

Need for Balance

Diary of a Voyage to Australia

You may prevent her delivering a public address: but you cannot prevent her giving good counsel, and you ought not. Though woman by Divine law is in subjection, she is not extinguished. If man is her head, it is not to domineer over her, but to protect and cherish and serve her in honour “as the weaker vessel,” content with the casting vote in matters of difference, which is the extent of his superior privilege...

Need for Balance

Diary of a Voyage to Australia

The denial of public speech to women is as far as we are justified in repressing them. I have seen tyrannical and unsympathetic men wrongly using Paul's authority to put down and quench godly women more qualified than they themselves to exercise judgment and give counsel... She is intended as a comrade and a help which she greatly is, when enlightened and treated rightly. We ought to be thankful when women turn up who are able to help with wise suggestion. To object to such on the score of "ruling the ecclesia," is to evince either a shameful misconception of duty or an itch for headship which disqualifies for the true service of the ecclesia. p. 141-142

‘Spiritual Ignorance and Women’s Position’

Seasons of Comfort Vol. 1, p. 92-97

In fact, it is a doctrine to be opposed and detested as much as any hurtful doctrine may be. The man who holds, and much more the man who preaches it, deserves to be deprived of every social advantage, and to be shut up in a cave. This, in fact, is his destiny at last.

Influence of Modern Custom

Something to Think About

“How far Paul’s opinions about women should be regarded as springing from his insight into the divine force that moves the world, we do not venture to judge; they are out of harmony with ours; but the fault may well lie with us, and we may be judging under the prepossession of modern custom, which will perhaps prove evanescent and discordant with the plan of the universe and the purpose of God.”

*W. Ramsay, The Teaching of Paul in Terms of the Present Day,
p. 212*

‘male and female created He them’

Gen. 1:27