



WORD OF FAITH INT'L CHRISTIAN CENTER

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Must Women Be Silent?

by Bishop Keith Butler | Bible Study Notes | Sunday, May 30, 2021

Introduction Summary

Must women be silent? In this lesson we will see clearly that women are called to ministry. The problem with accepting female ministers has come from not understanding Paul's writings. Let's take a deeper look into this issue.

Text: 1 Timothy 2:11-12; 1 Cor. 14:34-35

- I. Underline the words "learn" and "at home" in verse 35 (1 Cor. 14:34-35).
 - A. This has been a subject of vast interest, concern and controversy in the church.
 - B. My mother was a called minister, but she was not allowed to exercise her gift.
- II. Law of scriptural interpretation: Read all verses on a subject. Consider the context.
- III. God anointed women for ministry.
 - A. Deborah was both judge and prophetess, civil and spiritual head of Israel (Jud. 4:4-5).
 - B. Miriam was a prophetess (Exo. 15:20).
 - C. Anna was a prophetess (Luke 2:36).
 - D. Phebe was a deaconess: *servant* means *deacon* (Rom. 16:1, 2).
 - E. Priscilla and Aquila were a husband and wife team (Acts 18:1-2, Rom 16:3, 1 Cor. 16:19).
 - F. God poured out of His Spirit upon male and female (Acts 2:16-18).
 - G. Phillip the evangelist had four daughters that prophesied (Acts 21:8-9).
- IV. There is a difference between the Greek and English languages.
 - A. The only Greek word for *woman* or *wife* is *gune*. You must determine by the text whether it's speaking about a wife or a single woman.
 - B. There is one English word for love: I love my wife; I love fried chicken. You must determine by the text to what kind of love the writer is referring.
 - C. There is one Greek word for man: *aner*. You must determine by the text whether it's speaking to a husband or a single man.
 - D. Paul's letters were written to answering questions the church previously asked.
 - E. Theme of Corinthians is to bring order (1 Cor. 14:33, 40).
 - F. When God organized the church he said to take *oversight* or *rule* (1 Pet. 5:2).
- V. Paul addressed traditions and customs observed in the first century (1 Cor. 11:3-16).
 - A. *Man* means *her husband*. The man is not the head of every woman.
 - B. A custom was for women to cover their head inside the assembly to show she is under her husband's covering and that her husband was present (1 Cor. 11:16).
 - C. In the USA, it is customary for a man to take his hat off when he enters a building.

- D. The woman's long hair is a glory to her (1 Cor. 11:15).
- E. Prophesying with her head uncovered dishonored her husband, not God.
- F. The veil a woman wore was a symbol of subjection to her new husband.
- G. Today, men are required to cover their heads with a yamaka, in a Jewish synagogue.
- H. Muslims take off their shoes before entering their temple. It comes from Exo. 3:5.
- I. Paul was addressing a husband and wife relationship.
- J. These things were done out of respect for social customs.
- K. Christians followed Jewish practices, such as circumcision (Acts 15:1).
- L. It was customary to interrupt the preacher to ask questions: questions and answers.
- M. Men and women sat together in the synagogue. Today, they sit separately.

- VI. In 1 Cor. 14:33-34, Paul is referencing Gen. 3:15-16.
- VII. In that day, women were not allowed to be educated (1 Cor. 14:35). Only the men were educated. Then the question/answer sessions became problematic. Women were disrespecting the customs in two ways: They were entering the synagogue with their head uncovered and there were unlearned women shouting out questions.
- VIII. Paul's answer was for the women to hold their questions until they get home.
- IX. Paul address how husbands and wives should treat each other.
 - A. Men and women should submit to one another (Eph. 5:21).
 - B. Wives submit to their own husbands as they submit to the Lord (Eph. 5:22).
 - C. Christ loved the church so much that suffered grotesquely for her (Eph. 5:25).
 - D. The Lord receives a church today because of His sacrifice.
 - E. A man receives blessings in his life because of his sacrifice and proper care for His wife.
 - F. A man should nourish and cherish his own wife as Jesus does the church (Eph. 5:27).
 - G. Cleave means to join hard to the wife (Eph. 5:28).
 - H. The wife should reverence her husband: she be in awe of him (Eph. 5:31).
- X. I installed Evangelist Kaye Stramler as a pastor in Jackson, MS. With the anointing, she was one of the best pastors I have anywhere in the world.
- XI. There is neither male nor female in Christ (Gal. 3:26-29).
 - A. The Greek word for *promise* is *announcement* (Gal. 3:13-14).
 - B. The prophet Joel announced that the Spirit would come (Joel 2:28; Acts 2:4).
 - C. Accept Jesus and you accept the anointing on Him (Acts 10:38).
- XIV. There is a special anointing for the office of ministry of helps.
- XV. When I accepted the call, God's anointing came on me to fulfill His call successfully.

Closing Summary

Must women be silent? Absolutely not. In fact, the issue isn't male or female, the issue is God's anointing. Anything God calls a man or woman to do they can do it under the anointing. The anointing will cause a person, male and female, to stand in the place God has for them.