

***The Duties of The Priest
The Mission and the Work of The Church
Woman to Stand and Teach
Part 31***

“But you are the chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people belonging to God, that you may declare the praises of Him who called you out of darkness into His wonderful light.” (1 Peter 2:9)

The issue of the women being involve in the ministry and serve the Lord, everyone agree that women are called by God to serve Him. But some they doubt and they don't agree that women can stand and preach in the church meeting or can lead a congregation or a ministry in the church.

The family is the small congregation in the church, and the Lord had command the children with the following: ¹ ***Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right.*** ² ***Honor your father and mother***—which is the first commandment with a promise— ³ ***so that it may go well with you and that you may enjoy long life on the earth.*** (Ephesians 6:1-3) God commanded the children to obey their fathers and their mothers because parents are the first teachers of God's word to their children.

Now if you like it or not, your mother might be your first teacher! However also and true that mothers are called to help their husbands in teaching the children in the family and to be under the authority of man, ³ ***But I want you to realize that the head of every man is Christ, and the head of the woman is man, and the head of Christ is God.*** (1Corinthians 11:3)

There are certain saying of Paul might made us understand that woman are not allowed to teach or stand in the church. Here we will discuss these saying to come out with good conclusions:

1- ³⁴ *Women should remain silent in the churches. They are not allowed to speak, but must be in submission, as the law says. ³⁵ If they want to inquire about something, they should ask their own husbands at home; for it is disgraceful for a woman to speak in the church.* (1Corinthians 14:34-35) The one who first read this Scripture will first come to his mind that woman by no mean should be allowed to stand and preach in the church meeting. The explanation about the above Scripture is as the following: In the church of Corinth the men were sitting together in one side and women sitting together in another side. During their worship, speaking in tongues and preaching is going on, so if any woman wants to ask the explanation about the interpretation of tongues she should ask her husband who is sitting away from her with the other men. Therefore, then when she would speak to him she might stand to call him and that might caused disturbance to the rest of members while the church meeting is going on. So Paul suggested that if any woman had a question to her husband and wanted to enquire from him then better to keep silent while the church meeting is going on, and she will ask him at home so there will be no more disturbance within the church meeting.

This explanation is satisfactory because Paul was speaking to the church about the issue of speaking in tongues and the need for interpretation of tongues. So already there is much questions and confusion inside the heart of everyone about it, and it will be more disorders if women would try to communicate with their own husbands while the church meeting is going on.

2- ^{d2} *I do not permit a woman to teach or to assume authority over a man; she must be quiet.* (1Timothy 2:11) Paul was speaking here that women should be in submission to their husbands and they should not teach their husbands, but instead they should listen and receive the teaching of the Lord from their husbands. The men should be the one to lead their families and directing their family members with God's word and instructions. God is expecting from the men to lead their families in the fear of the Lord. And women are called to help their husbands in their leadership. But if the men fail God and refuse to respond to His word then God may uses their wives to teach the children and raise them in the fear of the Lord. Moreover we can conclude the following:

- A- Paul would not permit a woman to teach or to assume authority over a man who is her husband, and that is correct and true as long as the man is obedient to God.
- B- Paul would not permit a woman to teach or to assume authority over a man who is her husband, but that does not mean that women are not allowed to teach or stand in the church if God had called her and she had the word of God, the gift of The Holy Spirit and the vision of God.

Paul did not say that woman is not allowed to stand and say something in the church meeting if she is called by God to speak. Instead Paul recommends that woman to pray and prophecy:

- 1- ***⁵ But every woman who prays or prophesies with her head uncovered dishonors her head.*** (1Corinthians 11:5a) So Paul is accepting that women would prophecy and pray. So when they will prophecy they need to tell the church.
- 2- ***^d I commend to you our sister Phoebe, a servant of the church in Cenchrea. ² I ask you to receive her in the Lord in a way worthy of the saints and to give her any help she may need from you, for she has been a great help to many people, including me.*** (Romans 16:1-2) Phoebe was the one who serve at the Church in Cenchrea and Paul recommend her ministry and requested the people to help her.

God's word speaks about women prophesy and see vision and be filled with the Holy Spirit to serve God as in the following Scriptures:

- 1- ***²⁸ And afterward, I will pour out my Spirit on all people. Your sons and daughters will prophesy, your old men will dream dreams, your young men will see visions. ²⁹ Even on my servants, both men and women, I will pour out my Spirit in those days.*** (Joel 2:28-29) Therefore as God will pour out His Spirit on women in order to serve Him, we as church should allow women to help us in God's service.
- 2- ***⁸ Leaving the next day, we reached Caesarea and stayed at the house of Philip the evangelist, one of the Seven. ⁹ He had four unmarried daughters who prophesied.*** (Acts 21:8-9) God gave these four daughters of Philip the gift of Prophecy to declare God's will and His word to the people.

My dear and beloved: We obey God and we recognize women who had the gifts of the Holy Spirit to serve God as we agree to pray. ***My prayer:*** *Father God I come before you in the name of Jesus. Lord thank you for your word and the gift of the Holy Spirit that you gave also to the women to serve you and declare your will and your word to the people. Lord renews the minds of those who deny the women to stand and serve you as man. This is my prayer in Jesus name, Amen.*