
Should Women Preach?



MIRIAM, DEBORAH, HULDAH, ANNA, PHILLIP'S DAUGHTERS, MARY MAGDALENE, SAMARITAN
WOMAN, PRISCILLA, ETC.

Galatians 3:27-28 For as many of you as were baptized into Christ have put on Christ. There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free, **there is no male and female**, for you are all one in Christ Jesus.

I Corinthians 12:4-7 Now there are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit; and there are varieties of service, but the same Lord; and there are varieties of activities, but it is the same God who empowers them all in everyone. **To each is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good**

Ephesians 5:20-21 giving thanks always and for everything to God the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, **submitting to one another** out of reverence for Christ.

Ephesians 5:22-25 Wives, submit to your own husbands, as to the Lord. For the husband is the head of the wife even as Christ is the head of the church, His body, and is Himself its Savior. **Now as the church submits to Christ**, so also wives should submit in everything to their husbands.

I CORINTHIANS 14:26-35 THE WOMEN SHOULD KEEP SILENT IN THE CHURCHES

I Corinthians 14:33b-35 As in all the churches of the saints, the women should **keep silent** in the churches. For they are **not permitted to speak**, but should be in *submission*, **as the Law also says**. If there is anything they desire to learn, let them ask their husbands at home. For it is shameful for a woman to **speak** in church.

- **Silent** - this term for silence (*sigao*) can mean “to say nothing, keep silent” or as Thayer puts it “to keep silence, hold one’s peace”. It’s the exact same term in 28 & 30 when addressed to the tongue speaker and the one who prophesies.
- **Speak** - this term for speak (*laleo*) can mean “to utter a sound” or it can refer to the public proclamation of the word of God. Strong defines it as “A prolonged form of an otherwise obsolete verb; to talk, that is, utter words: - preach, say, speak (after), talk, tell, utter.” Thayer also defines it as declaring one’s thoughts or mind. It’s the exact same term used in 27 & 29 when addressed to the tongue speaker and the one who prophesies.
- **the Law** - some say it references Genesis 3:16. However, would that limit it to wives only? Perhaps it’s the Law as a whole with the idea of God’s order. Why “ask their husbands?” If this is a spiritual gift she had (very likely) this would show there was an exception to when it couldn’t be used.

Is this a cultural argument or command?

I CORINTHIANS 11:2-16 THE MAN IS THE HEAD OF WOMAN

I Corinthians 11:2-3 Now I commend you because you remember me in everything and maintain the traditions even as I delivered them to you. But I want you to understand that **the head** of every man is Christ, **the head** of a wife is her husband, and **the head** of Christ is God.

I Corinthians 11:7-9 For a man ought not to cover his head, since he is the image and glory of God, but woman is the glory of man. For man was not made from woman, **but woman from man**. Neither was man created for woman, **but woman for man**.

I Corinthians 11:10-12 That is why a wife ought to have a symbol of authority on her head, **because of the angels**. Nevertheless, in the Lord woman is not independent of man nor man of woman; for as woman was made from man, so man is now born of woman. **And all things are from God**.

Then why don't women cover their heads? Are we being inconsistent?

I CORINTHIANS 11:2-16 THE MAN IS THE HEAD OF WOMAN

I Corinthians 11:13-16 **Judge for yourselves:** is it proper for a wife to pray to God with her head uncovered? **Does not nature itself teach you that if a man wears long hair it is a disgrace for him,** but if a woman has long hair, it is her glory? For her hair is given to her for a covering. **If anyone is inclined to be contentious, we have no such practice, nor do the churches of God.**

- I Corinthians 2:11-13 I don't know the mind of God. He has to tell me what He desires.
- Numbers 6:5 All the days of his vow of separation, no razor shall touch his head. Until the time is completed for which he separates himself to the Lord, he shall be holy. He shall let the locks of hair of his head grow long.
 - What about Samson, Absalom, etc.? What about "for the man ought not to cover his head, since he is the image and glory of God"? What about the turban the priests wore?
- Some translate it , "we have no such custom."

The custom was to continue at that time and place BECAUSE its abuse reflected a rebellious spirit against God's order and principle of authority. Also, remember there was no such "custom" in I Corinthians 14.

I TIMOTHY 2:8-15 THE WOMAN WAS DECEIVED

I Timothy 2:8-15 I desire then that in every place the men should pray, lifting holy hands without anger or quarreling; likewise also that women should adorn themselves in respectable apparel, with modesty and self-control, not with braided hair and gold or pearls or costly attire, but with what is proper for women who profess godliness—with good works. **Let a woman learn quietly with all submissiveness. I do not permit a woman to teach or to exercise authority over a man; rather, she is to remain quiet. For Adam was formed first, then Eve; and Adam was not deceived, but the woman was deceived and became a transgressor.** Yet she will be saved through childbearing—if they continue in faith and love and holiness, with self-control.

- **Submissiveness** - shows her heart.
- **Objections** - “I’m not a preacher, but a teacher!” or “What if she does so with humility?” doesn’t harmonize with Paul’s instruction. * Take note that “quiet” does not mean absolute silence. Same principle in I Corinthians 14.
- **Reason** - God’s reason is very clear and it has nothing to do with culture. We continue to go back to the beginning: God’s order.

WHAT SISTERS IN CHRIST SHOULD DO

Acknowledge God's order.

Acknowledge, for example, priests were men.

Acknowledge, for example, Jesus came in the form of man.

Acknowledge, for example, He sent out twelve apostles . . . all men.

Acknowledge that YOU are still to:

- Address one another and teach through song (Ephesians 5:19-21; Colossians 3:16-17).
- Respond to the great invitation (Romans 10:9-10).
- Teach (Titus 2:4; Acts 18:26; 1 Peter 2:9-10).

Never think your role means you're inferior to man.

Be proud and thankful for the great charge given to you.