

Women, Leadership, and the Church

July 17-18, 2012

Pastor Pete Scazzero

I. Introduction

II. Studying the Bible

A. Exegesis - the careful study of Scripture to discover the original, intended meaning, to hear the Word as the original recipients hear it.

B. Hermeneutics - what does the text mean for the here and now.

C. Theology- taking two or more texts on a topic/theme, exegeting them and organizing it into a whole.

III. The Challenge Before Us

Which of the following statements is a timeless truth for all times and cultures and which are specific command intended for a specific culture and context? If you think an instruction is still in force for us completely as stated, please place a check mark before the number. If you think an instruction is still in force only in part or in a modified fashion through its underlying principle, kindly place an x mark (X) before the number.

1. "When you have finished setting aside a tenth of all your produce ... you shall give it to the Levite, the alien, the fatherless and the widow" (Deut 26:12).
2. "Greet one another with a holy kiss" (1 Cor 16:20).
3. "Women should remain silent in the churches" (1 Cor 14:34).
4. "Stop drinking only water, and use a little wine because of your stomach and your frequent illnesses" (1 Tim 5:23).
5. "Do not wear clothing woven of two kinds of material" (Lev 19:19).
6. "Whoever sheds the blood of man, by man shall his blood be shed; for in the image of God has God made man" (Gen 9:6).
7. "Now that I, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also should wash one another's feet" (Jn 13:14).
8. "Do not go among the Gentiles or enter any town of the Samaritans. Go rather to the lost sheep of Israel" (Mt 10:5-6).
9. "Sell your possessions and give to the poor" (Lk 12:33).

10. "If a man has long hair, it is a disgrace to him." (1 Cor. 11:14)
11. "Are you unmarried? Do not look for a wife?" (1 Cor. 7:27)
12. "Every male among you shall be circumcised." (Gen. 17:10)
13. "Do not turn away from the one who wants to borrow from you." (Mt. 5:42)
14. "Do not...put tattoo marks on yourselves." (Lev. 19:28)
15. "Rise in the presence of the aged, show respect for the elderly." (Lev. 19:32)
16. "You are to abstain from food sacrificed to idols, from blood, from the meat of strangled animals and sexual immorality." (Acts 15:29)
17. "A woman shall not wear men's clothing, nor a man wear women's clothing." (Deut. 22:5)
18. "I want men everywhere to lift up holy hands in prayer.. I also want women to dress modestly... not with braided hair or gold or pearls or expensive clothes." (1 Tim. 2:8-9).
19. "Is any of you sick? He should all the elders of the church to pray over him and anoint him with oil in the name of the Lord" (James 5:14).
20. "A woman... should cover her head. A man ought not to cover his head." (1 Cor. 11:6-7).

Adapted from William J. Webb. *Slaves, Women & Homosexuals: Exploring the Hermeneutics of Cultural Analysis* (Kindle Location 96). Kindle Edition.

IV. Genesis to Revelation – A Biblical Theology of Women

A. God's Original Intention (Gen. 1-2)

Genesis 1:26-28

²⁶Then God said, "Let us make man in our image, in our likeness, and let them rule over the fish of the sea and the birds of the air, over the livestock, over all the earth, and over all the creatures that move along the ground." ²⁷So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them. So God blessed them and said to them, "Be fruitful and increase in number; fill the earth and subdue it. Rule over the fish of the sea and the birds of the air and over every living creature that moves on the ground."

2:18-20

¹⁸The LORD God said, "It is not good for the man to be alone. I will make a helper suitable for him."

¹⁹Now the LORD God had formed out of the ground all the wild animals and all the birds in the sky. He brought them to the man to see what he

would name them; and whatever the man called living creatures, that was its name.²⁰ So the man gave names to all the livestock, the birds in the sky and all the wild animals. But for Adam no suitable helper was found.

2x “helper” - *ezer* - other 16x in OT used to refer to God as Savior

B. Sin and the Fall

Genesis 3:16

¹⁶To the woman he said, "I will greatly increase your pains in childbearing; with pain you will give birth to children. Your desire will be for your husband, and he will rule over you."

Battle of the Sexes - " Control"

"desire = absorb or devour

"rule"= dominate/subjugate

C. Redemption and Restoration

1. Women in the First Century

- a. “In the Mediterranean world of the first century the overwhelming perception about women was that they were inferior, that they ought to stay at home, that they ought to be submissive, that they ought to be silent, that they ought never to speak in public, and that they should have no role of leadership of any kind. Wives were to be subject to their husbands ‘in everything.’ .. women generally had no education beyond the domestic arts.” (David Scholer, quoted by Stackhouse, pg. 62)
- b. Rabbinical writings. (e.g. *Whoever teaches his daughter Torah teaches her obscenity bSotah 21b*)

2. Jesus and Women

- a. Mary at the Feet of Jesus: Luke 10:38-42

³⁸ As Jesus and his disciples were on their way, he came to a village where a woman named Martha opened her home to him. ³⁹ She had a sister called Mary, who sat at the Lord's feet listening to what he said. ⁴⁰ But Martha was distracted by all the preparations that had to be made. She came to him and asked, "Lord, don't you care that my sister has left me to do the work by myself? Tell her to help me!" ⁴¹ "Martha, Martha," the Lord answered, "you are worried and upset about many things, ⁴² but only one thing is needed. Mary has chosen what is better, and it will not be taken away from her."

b. Jesus taught women (something rabbis did not do) and included them in his group of followers (Lk. 8:1-3).

c. Women are the first witnesses of the resurrection to the apostles (Luke 24:1-12).

d. Jesus turns upside down the nature and use of power and authority. It is to serve, not lord over people (Mk.10:42-44).

3. Pentecost (Acts 2:17-18)

“In the last days, God says,
 I will pour out my Spirit *on all people*.
 Your sons and *daughters* will prophesy,
 your young men will see visions,
 your old men will dream dreams.
¹⁸ Even on my servants, *both men and women*,
 I will pour out my Spirit in those days,
 and they will prophesy.

4. The Emancipation Proclamation of Paul

²⁸ There is neither Jew nor Greek, neither slave nor free, *neither male nor female*, for you are all one in Christ Jesus. Galatians 3:28

This states that all distinctions between Jews and Greeks, slaves and free, male and female have been obliterated in Jesus. F.F. Bruce argues this is such a fundamental text of Christian liberty, of such consequence, that “if restrictions are found elsewhere in the Pauline corpus, as in 1 Cor. 14:34f and

1 Tim. 2:11f, they are to be understood in relation to Gal. 3:28 and not vice versa.”

5. Phoebe

Romans 16:1-7 ^{NIV} I commend to you our sister Phoebe, a servant (deaconess) 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.

6. Priscilla and Aquila

³ Greet Priscilla and Aquila my fellow workers in Christ Jesus. ⁴ They risked their lives for me. Not only I but all the churches of the Gentiles are grateful to them.

7. Junias- Apostle

⁷ Greet Andronicus and Junias, my relatives who have been in prison with me. They are outstanding among the apostles, and they were in Christ before I was.

8. Women Prophecy in the Church. (1 Cor. 11:5)

D. Women Leaders in the Old Testament

1. Miriam (Exodus 15ff)

Was 1/3 of Israel's leadership (Moses, Aaron and her as prophetess)

2. Deborah (Judges 4-5)

She was a prophet (4:4), led Israel as a law court judge, exercised spiritual leadership over the nation and was a military commander who led Israel to victory. She was a woman leader for the entire people of God.

3. Huldah: Prophet above the Prophets (2 Kings. 22)

When King Josiah is informed of the discovery of the long-lost Torah in the temple, he realizes the nation has failed to observe God's covenant. He needs discernment and counsel. To which prophet should he consult? - Jeremiah, Zephaniah, Nahum, Habakkuk, or

Huldah? The first 4 have books in the OT. He chooses the female prophet above the rest - Huldah!

V. The Difficult Texts of Paul

A. 1 Corinthians 10:31-33, 11:3-16

³¹ So whether you eat or drink or whatever you do, do it all for the glory of God. ³² Do not cause anyone to stumble, whether Jews, Greeks or the church of God— ³³ even as I try to please everyone in every way. For I am not seeking my own good but the good of many, so that they may be saved. ¹¹ ¹ Follow my example, as I follow the example of Christ. ³ Now 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. ⁴ Every man who prays or prophesies with his head covered dishonors his head. ⁵ And every woman who prays or prophesies with her head uncovered dishonors her head-- it is just as though her head were shaved. ⁶ If a woman does not cover her head, she should have her hair cut off; and if it is a disgrace for a woman to have her hair cut or shaved off, she should cover her head. ⁷ A man ought not to cover his head, since he is the image and glory of God; but the woman is the glory of man. ⁸ For man did not come from woman, but woman from man; ⁹ neither was man created for woman, but woman for man. ¹⁰ For this reason, and because of the angels, the woman ought to have a sign of authority on her head. ¹¹ In the Lord, however, woman is not independent of man, nor is man independent of woman. ¹² For as woman came from man, so also man is born of woman. But everything comes from God. ¹³ Judge for yourselves: Is it proper for a woman to pray to God with her head uncovered? ¹⁴ Does not the very nature of things teach you that if a man has long hair, it is a disgrace to him, ¹⁵ but that if a woman has long hair, it is her glory? For long hair is given to her as a covering. ¹⁶ If anyone wants to be contentious about this, we have no other practice-- nor do the churches of God.

1. Demosthenes (Greek): “ *Heteroi* we keep for sake of pleasure, concubines for ordinary requirements of the body and wives to bear us legitimate children and to guard the household. In same church as Jewish women - cloistered, very moral

2. Jewish woman would never go out in public with hair untied. They wore veil or hair symbol. Rabbis wouldn't address a woman in public. Now expected to sit at love feast with Greek women. Imagine problems!

B. 1 Corinthians 14:33-36

³³ For God is not a God of disorder but of peace. As in all the congregations of the saints, 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. ³⁶ Did the word of God originate with you? Or are you the only people it has reached?

Context:

C. 1 Timothy 2:9-15

⁹ I also want women to dress modestly, with decency and propriety, not with braided hair or gold or pearls or expensive clothes, ¹⁰ but with good deeds, appropriate for women who profess to worship God. ¹¹ A woman should learn in quietness and full submission. ¹² I do not permit a woman to teach or to have authority over a man; she must be silent. ¹³ For Adam was formed first, then Eve. ¹⁴ And Adam was not the one deceived; it was the woman who was deceived and became a sinner. ¹⁵ But women will be saved through childbearing-- if they continue in faith, love and holiness with propriety.

1. Context:

Paul's intention in 1 Tim is to warn vs. false teaching. Certain teachers wanted to be teachers but they don't know what they were talking about.

2. Two key passages

False teachers were finding their converts in "weak-willed women who are... always learning but never able to acknowledge the truth." These women were uneducated and ripe for false teaching (2 Tim. 3:5-9).

Very possible these women were young widows who had give themselves over to sensual pleasures and become "gossips and busybodies, saying things they ought not to (1 Tim. 5:13).

3. Appears the heresy had captured women and made them vehicles of that heresy. They must have been teaching it, attempting to usurp authority as they were now enjoying new found freedom to speak and teach.

Addendum: Day 2 - Women, Leadership and the Church
Pete Scazzero, July 2012

I. Introduction

II. Two Crucial Questions:

- A. What, if any, Positions of Authority Can Women Hold in the Church?
- B. What Roles Can Women Assume in Family and in Society?

III. Review

- A. **Key Question:** Is this a timeless truth for all time and all cultures or is this a specific command for a specified culture and context?

B. Revisiting 1 Timothy 2:9-15

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4. The major interpretive decisions:

- Is Paul addressing his comments to *wives* specifically or to *women* generally (*gyne* can mean either)?
- In verse 11 does Paul command a woman to learn *in silence* (i.e., she is not to speak in public) or to learn *quietly* (i.e., she is not to disrupt worship)?
- To whom or what is she to be in “full submission”?
- Is the verb in verse 12 to be translated “I am not permitting” (i.e. a temporary restriction) or “I do not permit” (i.e., a habitual practice)?
- Does *to teach* carry official or unofficial connotations?
- Does verse 12 prohibit one action (“to teach a man in an authoritarian fashion”) or two actions (“to teach” and “to have authority over a man”)?
- Does *authentein* in verse 12 have a positive (“to have authority over”) or a negative (“to dominate”) meaning?
- Is the connection between Genesis 2-3 in verse 13 a casual one (“because Adam was created first”) or an illustrative one (“for example, Adam was created first”)?
- Is “Adam created first” (AT) a historical observation or a statement about rank?
- In verse 14 is “the woman was deceived and became a transgressor” (AT) a warning from history or a statement about the nature of all women?
- Is it that women will be “kept safe” through childbearing or “saved” through childbearing (v.15)? (Belleville, pgs 164-165).

A. God’s Original Intention (Gen. 1-2)

Genesis 1:26-28

Then God said, “Let us make human beings in our image, in our likeness, **so that they may rule** over the fish in the sea and the birds in the sky, over the livestock and all the wild animals, and over all the creatures that move along the ground.”

²⁷ So God created human beings in his own image,
in the image of God he created them;
male and female he created them.

God blessed them and said to them, “**Be fruitful and increase in number; fill the earth and subdue it. Rule over** the fish in the sea and the birds in the sky and over every living creature that moves on the ground. ”

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¹⁸ The LORD God said, “It is not good for the man to be alone. I will make a helper suitable for him.”

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C. Women Leaders in the Old Testament

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- 2. Deborah (Judges 4-5)
- 3. Huldah: Prophet above the Prophets (2 Kings. 22)

D. Redemption and Restoration

1. Jesus and Women

After this, Jesus traveled about from one town and village to another, proclaiming the good news of the kingdom of God. The Twelve were with him, and also some women who had been cured of evil spirits and diseases: Mary (called Magdalene) from whom seven demons had come out; Joanna the wife of Chuza, the manager of Herod’s household; Susanna; and many others. These women were helping to support them out of their own means. (Lk. 8:1-3)

2. Pentecost (Acts 2:17-18)

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 I will pour out my Spirit *on all people*.
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3. The Emancipation Proclamation of Paul

²⁸There is neither Jew nor Greek, neither slave nor free, *neither male nor female*, for you are all one in Christ Jesus. Galatians 3:28

4. Phoebe

5. Priscilla and Aquila

6. Junias- A Female Apostle

7. Women Prophesying in the Church. (1 Cor. 11:5)

8. Ministering Widows

No widow may be put on the list of widows unless she is over sixty, has been faithful to her husband, and is well known for her good deeds, such as bringing up children, showing hospitality, washing the feet of the Lord’s people, helping those in trouble and devoting herself to all kinds of good deeds. As for younger widows, do not put them on such a list. For when their sensual desires overcome their dedication to Christ, they want to marry. Thus they bring judgment on themselves, because they have broken their first pledge. (1 Tim. 5:8-12)

IV. Church Leadership Roles- Charismatically Driven

A. Gift Precedes Function

We have different gifts, according to the grace given to each of us. If your gift is prophesying, then prophesy in accordance with your faith; if it is serving, then serve; if it is teaching, then teach; if it is to encourage, then give encouragement; if it is giving, then give generously; if it is to lead, do it diligently; if it is to show mercy, do it cheerfully. Rom 12:6-8

B. Ministry Done by the Whole and Not Simply the Few.

1. The Church is a “royal priesthood,” and “holy priesthood that offers spiritual sacrifices.

2. The church is “God’s temple” and where “God’s Spirit lives” (1 Cor. 3:16)

C. Spiritual Gifts for Every Believer

Now to each one the manifestation of the Spirit is given for the common good. To one there is given through the Spirit a message of wisdom, to another a message of knowledge by means of the same Spirit, to another faith by the same Spirit, to another gifts of healing by that one Spirit, to another miraculous powers, to another prophecy, to another distinguishing between spirits, to another speaking in different kinds of tongues, and to still another the interpretation of tongues. All these are the work of one and the same Spirit, and he distributes them to each one, just as he determines. 1 Cor. 12:7-11

V. Principles (from John Stackhouse, Jr.)

A. Some things matter more than others.

1. Jesus presses vs. gender expectations of his culture - the way he does vs. Jew/Gentile, Jew/ Samaritan, rich/poor, without actually overturning them. Jesus is subversive regarding women but not revolutionary.” Yoder
2. Jesus puts first things first - the gospel of the kingdom of God in Himself. The main issue is Jesus - not Jesus and slavery, or Jesus and women. We need to acknowledge Jesus’ accommodation to social distinctions.

B. Eschatology

Kingdom is here yet not fully here. We are in a new era but the end times have not yet fully come. It is a slow and partial realization of the gospel values here. God is patiently working to advance His kingdom.

C. Priorities, Pragmatism and Eschatology

1. The apostles taught a policy of social conservatism (“Get along as best you can with the political powers and social structures that be.”) in the interest of spreading the gospel as far and as fast as possible, e.g. 1 Thess. 4:10-12; 1 Cor. 7:20-24.

2. Believers in the NT were told to live within the structures of their society.

- Honor the emperor (even if Nero and pagan)
- Pay taxes
- Tells slaves to be content and not to strive for freedom
- Paul believes women should pray and prophesy and that they should be silent in the churches. How can they do both? By being silent at the right times and prophesying at the right times.

3. Yet we do see exceptional women teaching adult men -- offering leadership, with titles of deacon and apostle!

4. Paul does not call for a domestic revolution. He plants seeds of freedom that will blossom when the time is right

5. “For a 1st century husband to love (agape) his wife, for a 1st century father to avoid angering his child, or for a 1st century master to deal with his slave in the awareness that they are both slaves to a higher master is to make a more concrete and sweeping difference in the way that husband or father or master behaves than the other imperative of subordination would have made practically in the behavior of the wife, or child or servant” (*Politics of Jesus*, 181-182).

VI. Submission and Headship in the New Testament

¹⁸ Do not get drunk on wine, which leads to debauchery. Instead, be filled with the Spirit, ¹⁹ speaking to one another with psalms, hymns and songs from the Spirit. Sing and make music from your heart to the Lord, ²⁰ always giving thanks to God the Father for everything, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ.

²¹ Submit to one another out of reverence for Christ.

²² Wives, submit yourselves to your own husbands as you do to the Lord. ²³ For the husband is the head of the wife as Christ is the head of the church, his body, of which he is the Savior. ²⁴ Now as the church submits to Christ, so also wives should submit to their husbands in everything.

²⁵ Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her

²⁶ to make her holy, cleansing her by the washing with water through the word, ²⁷ and to present her to himself as a radiant church, without stain or wrinkle or any other blemish, but holy and blameless. ²⁸ In this same way, husbands ought to love their wives as their

own bodies. He who loves his wife loves himself.²⁹ After all, people have never hated their own bodies, but they feed and care for them, just as Christ does the church—³⁰ for we are members of his body.³¹ “For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife, and the two will become one flesh.”³² This is a profound mystery—but I am talking about Christ and the church.

VII. Questions and Answers

VIII. Summary

Resources

1. *How I Changed My Mind about Women in Leadership: Compelling Stories from Prominent Evangelicals*, Alan Johnson, General Editor
2. *Gender and Grace* by Mary Stewart Van Leeuwen
3. *Slaves, Women, & Homosexuals: Exploring the Hermeneutics of Cultural Analysis* by William J. Webb
4. *Women Leaders and the Church: Three Crucial Questions* by Linda Belleville
5. *Finally Feminist* by John Stackhouse
6. *The Blue Parakeet: Rethinking How You Read the Bible*, Scot McKnight
7. *Hard Sayings of Paul*, Manfred Brauch
8. *How to Read the Bible for All Its Worth: A Guide to Understanding the Bible*, Gordon Fee and Douglas Stuart