



Gender Roles and Identity

What the Bible Says About Men and Women – and Why It Matters

Lesson 8 – Gender Reflects the Image of
God in Christian Community – Part 2



Order My Steps

Three Basic Principles to Interpret Scripture

1. Figure out what Scripture meant to the original readers.

- Historical and literary context

2. Let the Bible explain itself.

- Inspiration, Inerrancy, Authorial Intent
- Exegesis: Genre, Word Meaning, Grammar, Syntax
- Biblical Context: Immediate paragraph > chapter > book > whole Bible. (Interpreting a verse in light of the whole canon of scripture)

3. Figure out how I can obey it.

- Any time I ask, “Did God really say...” (Gen. 3:1) to wriggle out of obedience, I actively participate in Satan’s tactics and in Adam and Eve’s sin, elevating my own will over God’s.



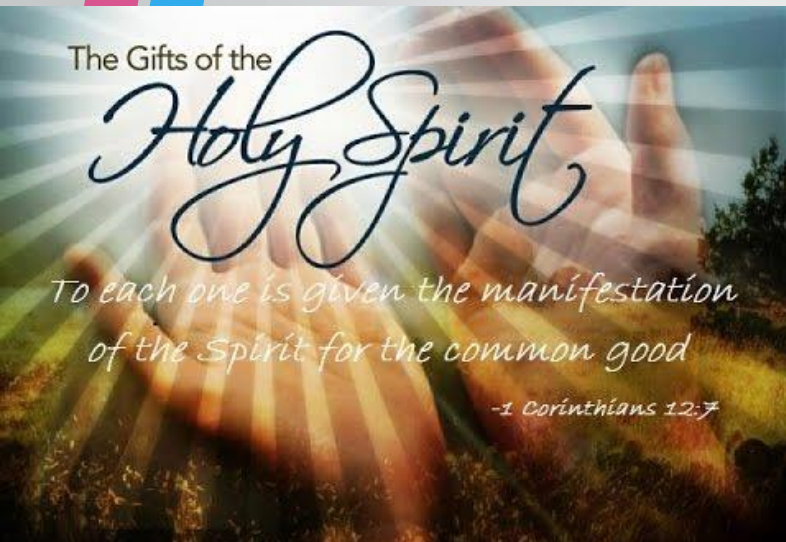
Prominent Roles for Women in the Early Church

- Prayer (in the presence of men)
 - Acts 1:14; 1 Cor. 11:4, 13
- Teaching (of women and men)
 - Acts 18:24-26; Titus 2:3-5
- Hosting Assemblies
 - Acts 12:12; Rom. 6:5; 1 Cor. 16:19; Col. 4:15
- Deacons (Designated Servants) (generally virgins or widows)
 - Rom. 16:1-2; 1 Tim. 3:11
- Prophecy (proclaiming God's Word)
 - Acts 2:4, 16-18; 21:7-9; 1 Cor. 11:11-16



What about Spiritual Gifts?

- Given to everyone for the common good - 1 Corth. 12:4-7
 - ⁴ Now there are **varieties** of gifts, but the **same** Spirit; ⁵ and there are **varieties** of service, but the **same** Lord; ⁶ and there are **varieties** of activities, but it is the **same** God who empowers them all in **everyone**. ⁷ To **each** is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the **common good**.



Motivational Gifts Rom. 12:6-8

Prophecy/Speaking Truth
Service/Serving
Teaching
Exhorting/Encouraging
Contributing/Giving
Leading/Organization
Mercy/Compassion

Manifestation Gifts 1 Corth. 12:7-10

Word of Wisdom
Word of Knowledge
Faith (Supernatural)
Healings
Miracles
Prophecy/Foretelling
Discerning of Spirits
Tongues/Languages
Interpretation of Tongues

Some Shepherding Affirmations and Denials

- **We affirm** that both men and women, upon conversion and baptism, become members of the Body of Christ, the Church (1 Cor. 12:13, 27; Gal. 3:27-28). **We affirm** that both genders have equal access to God. **We deny** that there is a 'preferred' gender.
- **We affirm** that the example of the New Testament Church shows that women prayed (Acts 1:14; 1 Cor. 11:4, 13), taught (Acts 18:24-26; Titus 2:3-5), hosted assemblies (Acts 12:12; Rom. 16:5; 1 Cor 16:19; Col. 4:15), were servant leaders (deacons) (Rom. 16:1-2; 1 Tim. 3:11), and proclaimed God's Word (prophesied) (Acts 2:3, 16-18; 21:7-9; 1 Cor. 11:11-16).



Some Shepherding Affirmations and Denials

- **We affirm** that both men and women, upon the indwelling of the Holy Spirit and the admission to the Church that follows baptism, are given spiritual gifts, each by the will and decision of the Holy Spirit (Rom. 12:4-8; 1 Cor. 12:4-7, 11). **We affirm** that spiritual gifts are given to both men and women for the good of the Church, the Body of Christ, and the building up of its members (1 Cor. 12:7).



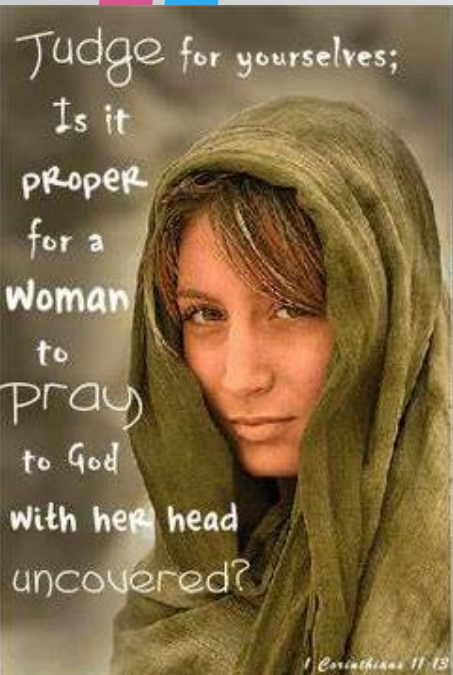
Analysis of 1 Cor. 11:2-16

² Now I commend you because you remember me in everything and **maintain the traditions** even as I delivered them to you. ³ 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. ⁴ Every man who **prays or prophesies** with his head covered **dishonors his head**, ⁵ but every wife who **prays or prophesies** with her head uncovered **dishonors her head**, since it is the same as if her head were shaven. ⁶ For if a wife will not cover her head, then she should cut her hair short. But since it is disgraceful for a wife to cut off her hair or shave her head, let her cover her head. ⁷ 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**.



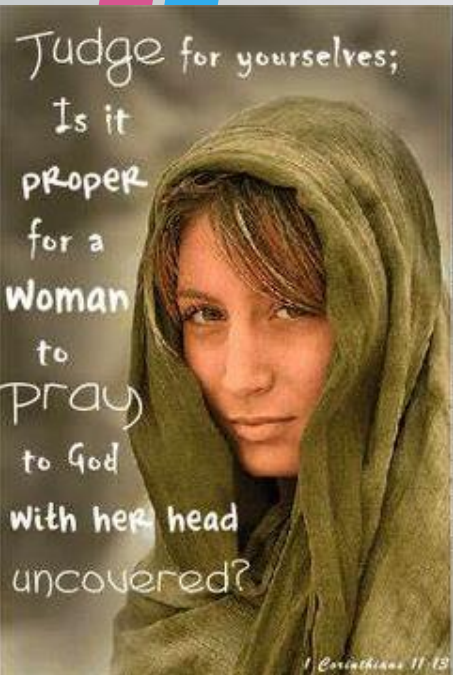
Analysis of 1 Cor. 11:2-16

⁸ For man was not made from woman, but woman from man.
⁹ Neither was man created for woman, but woman for man.
¹⁰ That is why a wife ought to have a **symbol of authority** on her head, **because of the angels.** ¹¹ Nevertheless, in the Lord **woman is not independent of man nor man of woman;** ¹² for as woman was made from man, so man is now born of woman. And all things are from God. ¹³ **Judge for yourselves:** is it proper for a wife to pray to God with her head uncovered? ¹⁴ Does not nature itself teach you that if a man wears long hair it is a disgrace for him, ¹⁵ but **if a woman has long hair, it is her glory?** For her hair is given to her for a covering. ¹⁶ If anyone is inclined to be contentious, we have no such practice, nor do the churches of God.



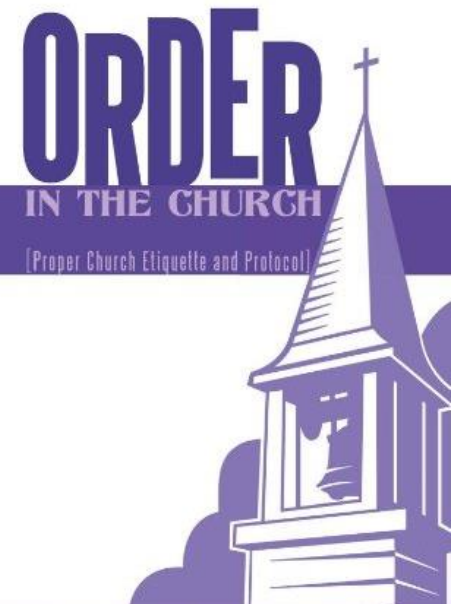
Analysis of 1 Cor. 11:2-16

- If these are traditions as Paul says in vs 2, might the principles behind them be expressed differently in different cultures?
- In the first century culture how was respect for the order of authority demonstrated by men and women in assembly?
- In our culture and traditions how is respect for the order of authority demonstrated by men and women in assembly?
- What are the indications the context is in the assembly?
 - See verses 2, 10, and 16
- What did Paul assume both men and women were doing in the assembly?
- Can a women prophesy silently?



Analysis of 1 Cor. 11:2-16

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- In the first century culture how was respect for the order of authority demonstrated by men and women in assembly?
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- What is the order of authority in the church?
 - Eph. 5:23; Col. 1:18 – Christ is the head of the church
 - 1 Tim. 3:2-5; Tit. 1:5-11; 1 Peter 5:1-5 – Elders as under-shepherds.
- What gender are elders assumed to be (1 Tim. 3:2, Tit. 1:6)



Some Shepherding Affirmations and Denials

- **We affirm** that the sole authority within the Church is the Risen Lord Jesus (Eph. 5:23).
- **We affirm** that the visible authority of Jesus within the Church structure is represented by a group of elders (1 Tim. 3:4-5). It is the responsibility of these elders to give authoritative teaching and guard the teaching of truth in the church by rebuking those who contradict it (Tit. 1:9).
- **We affirm** that the position of elder in the church is to be limited to men (1 Tim. 3:2).



Difficult Passages

Limitation on Women Teaching in General Assemblies

- 1 Corth. 14:34-35
- 1 Timothy 2:8-15

