Women In The Church
– Part 1 –
4400

I. Introduction
A. Ask forgiveness on behalf of males
   1. But—we live in a fallen world
   2. More unrighteous than righteous—more sad days than glad days
   3. All happy weddings ultimately end in funerals, etc.
B. Pervasive root cause: man’s rebellion against God
C. My aim to be objective—based on Scripture

II. Prophetic Backdrop
A. The prophetic word offers us light in darkness (2 Pet. 1:19)—without it we do not understand what is going on around us and we do not see where we are headed
B. First, falling away (NKJ); rebellion (NIV); apostasy (NAS)—(2 Thess. 2:3; compare Acts 21:21) then, antichrist
C. Deliberate rejection of God’s revealed laws—manifested in humanism/feminism/-secularism
D. The original rebellion: man abrogating the right to determine good and evil (2 Thess. 2:3)
E. Result: lawlessness—warning to believers (Matt. 24:12)
F. Provokes God’s curse (Is. 24:4–6)
G. Rebellion takes three main forms:
   1. Transgressed laws, e.g. Ten Commandments
   2. Changed ordinance—way of life, especially family
   3. Broken everlasting covenant, i.e., apostasy of Christian church
H. Picture of society without restraint Is. 59:14, 15)

III. Ordinance = God’s Original Pattern
A. Two basic human relationships
   1. Husbands/wives
   2. Parents/children
B. When these are out of order, it affects all human society
C. Jesus went back to the beginning (i.e., Genesis) (Matt. 19:3–5)
   1. Paul goes back to the relationship in the Godhead (1 Cor. 11:3)
      a. Neither of these are affected by culture
      b. Originally: man and woman to rule together (Gen. 1:26–27)
      c. Woman created to be a helper (Gen. 2:18)
      d. Also the role of the Holy Spirit—but not inferior (John 16:7)
D. After the fall
   1. Christ has redeemed us from the curse of the law (Gal. 3:13; compare Deut. 28:15–68)—but not yet from the curse of the original fall (Gen. 3:16–19)
   2. Man to rule—be the governor (head) (Gen. 3:16; compare 1 Cor. 11:3)
      a. (Hebrew for “government” and “prime minister”)
      b. Governmental authority requires a comprehensive grasp of God’s redemptive plan, rightly relating the main elements
      c. A responsibility committed to few—generally not to women (James 3:1)
   3. Other forms of teaching open to both men and women: intercession, worship,
healing, Christian character, etc.

IV. Specific Ministries Open To Women—Single Or Married
(Examine four New Testament lists)
A. Prophecy, serving, exhorting, giving, showing mercy (but not teaching or leading) (Rom. 12:6–8)
B. Praying or prophesying (1 Cor. 11:5)
C. Prophets, miracles, healings, helps, administrations, tongues, interpretations (but not apostles, teachers) (1 Cor. 12:28–30). But always remember the more excellent way: love (1 Cor. 12:31)
D. Prophets, evangelists (but not apostles, pastors, teachers) (Eph. 4:11)
E. Hence the limitations set by Paul:
   1. Not to participate in governmental assemblies (1 Cor. 14:34)
   2. Not to teach where this implies governmental authority (1 Tim. 2:12)
   3. Not as pastor—who must be husband of one wife—ruling . . . (1 Tim. 3:2–4)
   4. [Phoebe a servant (deaconess) and “protectress”—Rom. 16:1–2]

V. Requirements For Married Women
A. Submit to husband as to the Lord (Paul unmarried) (Eph. 5:22)
B. Even to unbelieving husband (Peter married) (1 Pet. 3:1–2)
   1. “Likewise”—refers to conduct of Jesus in 1 Pet. 2:21–23 [Testimony of a family where it worked]
   2. Distinguish between submission and submissiveness
      a. Submission begins in the Godhead
      b. Without submission no headship—only domination
C. Women are different, not inferior
   1. Some areas in which women excel:
      a. Quick to recognize and respond to the Holy Spirit
      b. Compassionate
      c. Brave
      d. Loyal
      e. Excel as evangelists
   2. Three Marys stayed close to Jesus to the end (John 19:25)
   3. Many other women afar off (Matt. 27:55–56)
   4. Mary Magdalene first witness of the resurrection (Mark 16:9)
   5. Women sent to tell the apostles of the resurrection (Matt. 28:5–7)
   6. The Bible leaves room for exceptions, e.g. Deborah—but only one out of 13 judges
   7. We honor women who have stepped in where men have defaulted—but not as a permanent practice (e.g., in CIS)

VI. Critical Problems Of America
A. No. 1: Delinquent males
B. No. 2: Rebellious females
   1. Each problem increases the other
   2. Family reconciliation to avert desolating judgment (Mal. 4:5–6)
   3. Do you need to repent—renounce rebellion?