

A WOMAN MINISTERING UNDER GOD'S AUTHORITY

WEEK 4 'GOD'S WOMEN OF GRACE MONTH'

We have been sharing about one of the hottest topics in New Testament Theology -

Should a woman teach and minister in church?

This has been a challenge to some ... liberation for others.

You may disagree with me, but let's stay in His love and agree to disagree ...

Last week we disputed the misleading text of 1 Corinthians 14:34 which seemingly says '**WOMEN CANNOT SPEAK IN CHURCH**'.

NB: We were not talking about women holding positions of eldership.

So, we brought out that **PAUL WAS NOT COMMANDING WOMEN TO KEEP SILENT IN CHURCH.**

He was actually quoting people in the Corinthian church who had said this.

In fact as we read what Paul teaches we find -

PAUL ACTUALLY ENCOURAGES WOMEN TO PRAY & PROPHECY IN CHURCH –

SLIDE

➤ **PAUL ENCOURAGES WOMEN & MEN TO SPEAK IN CHURCH**

1 Corinthians 14:5 Berean Study Bible **SLIDE**

*I wish that **all of you** could speak in tongues, but I would rather have you [**all**] prophesy.*

Paul not only permits women to speak in church ...

PAUL ENCOURAGES BOTH MEN & WOMEN TO PROPHECY WHICH YOU CANNOT DO BY BEING SILENT.

NB: Again, this is about Ministry and not Leadership – There is a great difference.

SLIDE

➤ **PAUL ENCOURAGES ALL WOMEN & MEN TO SPEAK –
TO BUILD UP, ENCOURAGE & EDIFY THE CHURCH**

1 Corinthians 14:26 NIV **SLIDE**

What then shall we say, brothers and sisters? (adelphoi) often used generally for all fellow believers When you come together, *each of you (not just the men) has a hymn or a word of instruction (didachēn = teaching), a revelation, a tongue or an interpretation. Everything must be done so that the church may be built up.*

Why does Paul want this ministry to happen?

SO THAT THE CHURCH CAN BE BUILT UP & ENCOURAGED.

1 Corinthians 14:31 Berean Study Bible

For you can all prophesy in turn so that everyone may be instructed and encouraged.

‘INSTRUCTED’ = (manthanōsin) to learn. Prophecy can instruct and inform; and men and women can both do it.

NB: WHAT PROPHECY IS NOT **SLIDE**

- **PROPHECY IS NOT SPEAKING FOR CORRECTION**
- **PROPHECY IS NOT SPEAKING FOR DIRECTION**
- **PROPHECY IS SPEAKING FOR EDIFICATION**

Both men and women are exhorted to edify and build up the church.

WOMEN HAVE A LOT TO OFFER ...

IN THE FOLLOWING VERSE, PAUL DESCRIBES WHAT PROPHECY IS –

1 Corinthians 14:3 Berean Literal Bible **SLIDE**

*But **the one** (not ‘he’ as in KJV) prophesying speaks to men (humans) for edification and encouragement and consolation.*

Men = (anthrōpois – human beings)

THIS PROPHECY IS NOT ‘FORETELLING’ THE FUTURE BUT FORTH-TELLING THE GRACE & TRUTH OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST ...

IT'S SPEAKING UNDER THE INSPIRATION OF THE HOLY SPIRIT ...

- 1. TO BUILD UP THOSE WHO ARE DISCOURAGED ...**
- 2. TO ASSURE THOSE WHO ARE DOUBTING ...**
- 3. TO COMFORT THOSE WHO ARE HURTING ...**

HOW IMPORTANT IS IT, ESPECIALLY IN THESE TIMES OF CRISIS IN THE EARTH?

HOW MUCH DO PEOPLE NEED THIS!

HOW MUCH DOES GOD WANT THIS!

AND SOME PEOPLE WANT TO FORBID IT BECAUSE IT COMES THROUGH THE WRONG GENDER???

CAN YOU SEE ... THIS CANNOT BE GOD SILENCING WOMEN.

THESE MESSAGES OF HOPE & COMFORT & ASSURANCE CAN ALSO BE DELIVERED IN MANY DIFFERENT WAYS ...

You do not have to have your eyes closed or say, 'Thus Saith the Lord' ...

You can share a testimony ... a scripture ... a poem ... a hymn ... a revelation ... a song ... communion ... drama ... scripture readings ... and teaching

WOMEN ARE OF GREAT VALUE TO THE CHURCH OF JESUS CHRIST.

TO BUILD THE CHURCH UP – LET THE WOMEN SPEAK!!!

Consider: In a church a woman prophesies and many are comforted. Many hurts get healed but because the leaders of that church believe 'a women should keep silence in church' they denounce her to all the people.

Is this how God intended church to be?

No wonder people don't want to come ...

These leaders are not letting 'all things be done'.

They are preventing the edifying of the church.

THEY ARE NOT BUILDING IT UP ...

THEY ARE BINDING IT UP.

Jesus said, I will BUILD my church, not pull it down. (Matthew 16:18)

Some people are always pulling down.

Nothing is good enough ... always finding fault ...

You say 'good morning.' They say 'What's good about it!'

1 Corinthians 13:7 tells us Love believes all things, hopes all things.

Or as the Message Bible puts it poetically ...

*'[Love] takes pleasure in the flowering of truth, puts up with anything, trusts God always, **always looks for the best ...**'*

Love looks for the positive ... sees the good ... sees past the evil.

It believes in the good it sees (love believes all things).

Look at Scripture honestly but positively in the grace of the gospel, and see how this can bless and encourage people.

BEWARE MY BROTHER; THIS IS NOT YOUR CHURCH

This is His church, that He gave His life for, to bring it to glory as His bride.

Jesus is not caught up in some dry doctrine.

He is the Spirit of Life, Liberty and Love in The Holy Spirit.

LET'S STOP BEING NEGATIVE, SELF-APPOINTED JUDGES WHO ALWAYS LOOK FOR WHO'S WRONG WHILE WE OURSELVES DO NOTHING RIGHT.

'THEMS IN THE SPIRIT DO! THEMS IN THE FLESH JUDGE'

NB: We have only spoken about women being able to minister in word and service ...

We have not spoken about women in senior **leadership positions.**

That is another issue ...

And these two things are not synonymous.

SO HERE IS THE REALLY TRICKY PART ...

**PAUL DOES ADD A GREAT CONDITION TO THIS FREEDOM ...
THAT ALLOWS & ENCOURAGES WOMEN TO SPEAK ...**

- **SLIDE** PAUL ENCOURAGES WOMEN & MEN TO SPEAK IN
CHURCH **IN A DIVINE ORDER**

1 Corinthians 14:40 **SLIDE**

Let all things be done decently and in [according to] order.

This word 'order' is far more than 'in an orderly manner' ...
That is covered by the word 'decently' like as follows ...

British cockney lady –

*'Where are ya? Where are ya? I got all these gifts for ya, don't !! But
ya don't want 'em!*

Lady 2: 'I'm here Lord! I want 'em'.

Lady 3: "Ere, you sit down. I was 'ere first.'

This is a disorder in the protocol ...

**BUT THE WORD 'ORDER' IS MORE THAN DOING THINGS WITH
POLITENESS & WITH MANNERS.
IT IS MUCH STRONGER.**

THIS ORDER = (taxin) From tasso; fixed succession

Also used as follows:

Hebrews 5:6

You [Jesus] are a priest according to 'The Order' of Melchizedek.

This is 'Divine Succession'

*See also Hebrews 5:10 / 6:20 / 7:11 & 17 (See also Luke 1:8 re Zacharias 'John The
Baptist's' father serving as a priest in The Appointed Order)*

**This 'Order' is an appointed structure / an appointed order / a
delegated authority under a sovereign authority.**

**NB: All these references refer to a man standing in the priest's
position under God.**

THE PRIEST COULD ONLY MINISTER IN SUBMISSION TO THE
DIVINE ORDER ...

SO IT IS ALSO IN THE NEW TESTAMENT CHURCH ...
BOTH A MAN & WOMAN NEED TO BE **UNDER THE DIVINE ORDER
OF GOD'S AUTHORITY**

God wants to speak through all men and women to the church in
many different ways ... so we can begin to see His fullness ...
But the ministry must be done in His divine order.

SO WHAT IS THE ORDER IN THE CHURCH?

1 Corinthians 11:3 Berean Literal Bible **SLIDE**

*But I want you to know that Christ is **the head** of every man and the
man is **the head** of the woman and **the head** of Christ is God.*

Now remember Paul is not necessarily talking about marriage here
... He deals with that in Ephesians chapter 5.

PAUL IS WRITING ABOUT ORDER IN CHURCH MEETINGS and the
protocol of ministry, using a divine and general principle.

Paul is talking about **edifying The Church** and the right way to go
about this ...

Paul is talking about **THE SPIRIT OF THE CHURCH & MINISTRY.**

'MY TAKE' ON THIS IS THAT IT'S TALKING ABOUT A WOMAN & A
MAN **HAVING A SUBMISSIVE ATTITUDE UNDER GOD.**

WHAT'S OUR RESPONSE TO HEADSHIP?

SUBMISSION or REBELLION!

NB: ALL ARE IN SUBMISSION - CHRIST, THE MAN, THE WOMAN.

- **NB: PAUL TRACES THE AUTHORITY BACK TO GOD THE FATHER**
- **NB: BOTH THE MAN & THE WOMAN ARE CALLED INTO SUBMISSION INDIRECTLY TO THE FATHER**

THIS IS NOT TALKING ABOUT SOMEONE IN SO-CALLED
AUTHORITY, TAKING CONTROL OF SOMEONE'S LIFE.

THIS IS NOT TALKING ABOUT SUBJUGATION ... BEING DOMINATED BY ANYONE, AS IN GENESIS 3:16 –

‘He will Rule Over You’ IS THE CURSE PRONOUNCED ... NOT THE COMMAND PROCLAIMED ...

This is a result of The Fall -

Just as God didn’t command man to labour by the sweat of his brow ...

God uncovered what would happen now as a result of the fall.

Submission must be a voluntary heart decision from the one submitting.

IT CAN NEVER BE DEMANDED BY AUTHORITY.

THAT IS SUBJECTION AS IN Genesis 3:16.

We see how Jesus willingly submitted to The Father – ‘The Head of Christ is God’.

SLIDE THIS IS TALKING ABOUT THE BEAUTIFUL SPIRIT OF SUBMISSION THAT JESUS HAD & DISPLAYED ...

Yet Jesus still ministered with great authority.

He ministered with the Father’s authority, under the Father’s authority, to which He was in submission.

NB: THE AUTHORITY WE SUBMIT TO BECOMES THE AUTHORITY WE MINISTER WITH.

John 12:49 NLT **SLIDE**

I don’t speak on my own authority. The Father who sent me has commanded me what to say and how to say it.

THE FATHER’S AUTHORITY IS NOT DOMINATION – IT’S LIBERATION.

THE FATHER’S AUTHORITY IS NOT CONTROL – IT’S RELEASE.

When we submit to The Father we become who we are.

SLIDE THE PURE & NOBLE MAJESTY OF OUR GOD

Jack Hayford ... (Church on The Way) one of the most balanced and respected pastor/teachers in USA today, wrote the song, 'Majesty' after he visited England during Queen Elizabeth's silver jubilee. He also visited Blenheim Palace (where Churchill was).

As he walked among the people, he sensed a feeling of grandeur and nobility.

He said to his wife, Anna, 'There is something of majesty in all this.'

*As he talked to her of how Christ wants to exercise His kingdom authority in our lives and our activities, that one word seemed to continually charge to the forefront: **MAJESTY!***

He began to write ...

***Majesty! worship His majesty!
Unto Jesus be all glory, honour and praise.***

SLIDE Majesty!

Kingdom authority ...

Flows from His throne, unto his own ...

His anthem raise!

THERE IS A DIVINE FLOW OF GOD'S AUTHORITY THROUGH EVERYONE IN THE SPIRIT OF SUBMISSION IN HIS DIVINE ORDER.

HOW DOES THIS WORK IN EVERYDAY CHURCH LIFE?

GOD HAS PROVIDED AN APPOINTED SURROGATE-MAN FOR THE WOMEN TO MAKE CONNECTION WITH. A REPRESENTATIVE OF HIS GODLY SELF.

BUT WHY IS THE MAN SUBMITTED DIRECTLY UNDER CHRIST?

THIS IS TALKING ABOUT LEADERSHIP & GOVERNANCE ...

IT IS A MAN BEARING THE BURDEN OF HIS POSITION AS LEADER & PROTECTOR OF THE WOMAN ... BEARING THE RESPONSIBILITIES OF HIS FAMILY & THE FELLOWSHIP.

JESUS HAS APPOINTED MEN TO DO THIS.

- *Jesus chose 12 men as disciples (No Women) as these were to be the future leaders of The Church*
- *Jesus at His ascension commissioned 11 MEN to establish the ministry UNDER HIS AUTHORITY (Matthew 28:16 & 18-20)*

*Paul says to the woman, ‘**Don’t try and usurp the Leadership role.** Let the man do that so you, **in the spirit of submission,** can speak for Me to My church.*

Let the man bear the brunt of the leadership.

SLIDE I SEE **THIS MAN** LIKE A PILLAR.

HIS JOB IS TO HOLD THE ROOF UP SO THAT ALL IN THE HOUSE CAN FUNCTION.

THE WOMAN THEN DOESN’T HAVE TO, AND SHOULDN’T TRY TO, DO THE MAN’S JOB OF HOLDING THE ROOF UP, AS HE DOES HIS JOB UNDER CHRIST ...

SLIDE SHE SHOULD ENJOY HER FREEDOM UNDER THE ROOF TO FUNCTION AS A WOMEN AND MINISTER TO ALL IN THE HOUSE.

THIS IS THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN THE AUTHORITY OF LEADERSHIP AND THE FREEDOM OF MINISTRY

Galatians 2:9 Berean Study Bible

*And recognizing the grace that I had been given, James, Cephas, and John – **those reputed to be pillars** – gave me and Barnabas the right hand of fellowship so that we should go to the Gentiles, and they to the circumcised.*

*I once heard a lady minister called Joan James. Her husband and she were asked to greet the church I was attending in Sydney. The husband spoke first for about 2 minutes then introduced his wife. She started to speak and waves of warmth and comfort flowed over all the congregation. People wept as they were healed of inner hurts. The Pastor recognised this woman’s ministry and her word of ‘prophesy’ and handed the whole meeting over to her.
MANY WERE HEALED.*

HER HUSBAND ‘HELD UP THE ROOF OF RESPONSIBILITY’ AND SHE, IN SUBMISSION, WAS FREE TO MINISTER WITH GOD’S AUTHORITY TO BUILD UP THE CHURCH.

This Pillar-man can be your godly husband or godly father ...

But ...

Some women don’t have a godly husband or father.

Some women have no husband or father at all.

Who then is their godly man who can be their head and under whom they can submit and access God's authority?

NB: This passage refers to women ministering in the church not so much family life.

SO, WHERE IS THIS APPOINTED MAN?

I believe this refers to an elder of the church or some godly appointed man in leadership that can cover the women in their ministry ... a man who can share with her ... encourage her and adjust her in her ministry to God and the church.

THE GREAT NEED IN THE HOUSE OF GOD

Oh that we had more man-pillars in The House of God ...

Strong leadership that can allow others to minister ...

Strong leadership that can shoulder the load and give freedom to others, especially women, to minister words of edification, exhortation and comfort to the church.

OH THAT WE WOULD HAVE MORE GODLY FATHERS.

Paul says you have many teachers but not many Fathers ...

(1 Corinthians 4:15)

WHAT ABOUT THOSE WOMEN WHO ARE ISOLATED WHERE THERE IS NO CHURCH LEADERSHIP ... NO GODLY HUSBAND, FATHER OR ELDER?

WELL, HERE IS WHAT THE LORD SAYS TO YOU ...

Isaiah 54:4-6 Berean Study Bible **SLIDE**

“Do not be afraid, for you will not be put to shame; do not be intimidated, for you will not be humiliated. For you will forget the shame of your youth and will remember no more the reproach of your widowhood.

⁵For your husband is your Maker—the LORD of Hosts is His name—the Holy One of Israel is your Redeemer; He is called the God of all the earth.

⁶For the LORD has called you back, like a wife deserted and wounded in spirit, like the rejected wife of one's youth," says your God.