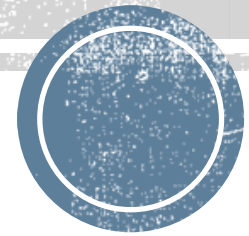


# The Women of the Church

New Testament Church  
Studies



# Introduction

- In the early church women performed various functions.



# Introduction

- During the ministry of Jesus women served Him by giving of their means to support his ministry - thus supporting and providing for Him.



# Supported the Jesus – financially

- **Luke 8:1** Soon afterward he went on through cities and villages, proclaiming and bringing the good news of the kingdom of God. And the twelve were with him,
- **Luke 8:2** and also **some women** who had been healed of evil spirits and infirmities: **Mary, called Magdalene**, from whom seven demons had gone out,
- **Luke 8:3** and **Joanna**, the wife of Chuza, Herod's household manager, and **Susanna**, and **many others**, **who provided for them out of their means.**



# Propheesied

- **Acts 2:17** “And in the last days it shall be, God declares, that I will pour out my Spirit on all flesh, and your sons and **your daughters shall prophesy**, and your young men shall see visions, and your old men shall dream dreams;
- **Acts 2:18** even on my male servants and **female servants** in those days I will pour out my Spirit, and **they shall prophesy**.



# Prophesied

- **Acts 21:8** On the next day we departed and came to Caesarea, and we entered the house of Philip the evangelist, who was one of the seven, and stayed with him.
- **Acts 21:9** He had **four unmarried [virgin] daughters, who prophesied.**
- **1 Corinthians 11:5** But every **woman** that **prays** or **prophesies** with her head uncovered dishonours her head: since it is the same as if her head were shaven.
- [Because of other Scriptural data it is obvious that his was done only in the presence of women. Cf. 1 Timothy 2:11,12 and 1 Corinthians 14:34]



# Taught

- **Acts 18:24** Now a Jew named Apollos, a native of Alexandria, came to Ephesus. He was an eloquent man, competent in the Scriptures.
- **Acts 18:25** He had been instructed in the way of the Lord. And being fervent in spirit, he spoke and taught accurately the things concerning Jesus, though he knew only the baptism of John.
- **Acts 18:26** He began to speak boldly in the synagogue, **but when Priscilla and Aquila heard him, they took him aside and explained to him the way of God more accurately.**



# Taught

- **Titus 2:3** Older women likewise are to be reverent in behavior, not slanderers or slaves to much wine. **They are to teach what is good,**
- **Titus 2:4** and so **train the young women** to love their husbands and children,
- **Titus 2:5** to be self-controlled, pure, working at home, kind, and submissive to their own husbands, that the word of God may not be reviled.





# Taught

- **2 Timothy 1:3** I thank God whom I serve, as did my ancestors, with a clear conscience, as I remember you constantly in my prayers night and day.
- **2 Timothy 1:4** As I remember your tears, I long to see you, that I may be filled with joy.
- **2 Timothy 1:5** I am reminded of your sincere faith, **a faith that dwelt first in your grandmother Lois and your mother Eunice** and now, I am sure, dwells in you as well.



# Taught

- 2 Timothy 3:14 But as for you, continue in what you have **learned** and **have firmly believed**, **knowing from whom you learned it**
- 2 Timothy 3:15 and **how from childhood you have been acquainted with the sacred writings**, **which are able to make you wise for salvation** through faith in Christ Jesus.



# Worked/labored with others

- **Romans 16:1** I commend to you **our sister Phoebe**, a **servant of the church** at Cenchreae,:
- **Romans 16:2** that you may welcome her in the Lord in a way worthy of the saints, and **help her in whatever she may need from you**, for she has been a patron of many and of myself as well.



# Wives of Deacons and Elders – Not Deaconesses

- 1 Timothy 3:8 **Deacons likewise** must be **dignified**, **not double-tongued**, not addicted to much wine, not greedy for dishonest gain.
- 1 Timothy 3:9 They must hold the mystery of the faith with a clear conscience.
- 1 Timothy 3:10 And let them also be tested first; then let them serve as deacons if they prove themselves blameless.
- 1 Timothy 3:11 **Their wives likewise** must be **dignified**, **not slanderers**, but **sober-minded**, **faithful in all things**.
- 1 Timothy 3:12 Let deacons each be the husband of one wife, managing their children and their own households well.
- 1 Timothy 3:13 For those who serve well as deacons gain a good standing for themselves and also great confidence in the faith that is in Christ Jesus.



# Worked/labored with others

- Romans 16:3 Greet Prisca and Aquila **my fellow workers** in Christ Jesus:
- Romans 16:6 Greet Mary, **who has worked hard for you.**
- Romans 16:12 Greet those **workers in the Lord**, Tryphaena and Tryphosa. Greet the beloved Persis, **who has worked hard in the Lord.**
- Romans 16:13 Greet Rufus, chosen in the Lord; also **his mother**, **who has been a mother to me as well.**



# Worked/labored with others

- Philippians 4:2 I entreat **Euodia** and I entreat **Syntyche** to agree in the Lord.
- Philippians 4:3 Yes, I ask you also, true companion, help these women, **who have labored side by side with me in the gospel** together with Clement and **the rest of my fellow workers**, whose names are in the book of life.



# Performed good works

- Acts 9:36 Now there was in Joppa **a disciple named Tabitha**, which, translated, **means Dorcas**. **She was full of good works and acts of charity**.
- Acts 9:37 In those days she became ill and died, and when they had washed her, they laid her in an upper room.



# Performed good works

- **Acts 9:38** Since Lydda was near Joppa, the disciples, hearing that Peter was there, sent two men to him, urging him, “Please come to us without delay.”
- **Acts 9:39** So Peter rose and went with them. And when he arrived, they took him to the upper room. **All the widows stood beside him weeping and showing tunics and other garments that Dorcas made while she was with them.**





# Performed good works

- **Acts 16:14** **One who heard us** was a woman named **Lydia**, from the city of Thyatira, **a seller of purple goods**, who was a worshiper of God. The Lord opened her heart to pay attention to what was said by Paul.
- **Acts 16:15** And after she was baptized, and her household as well, she urged us, saying, “If you have judged me to be faithful to the Lord, come to my house and stay.” And she prevailed upon us..
- **Acts 16:40** So they went out of the prison and **visited Lydia**. And when they had seen the brothers, they encouraged them and departed.



# Performed good works

- **1 Timothy 2:9** 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,
- **1 Timothy 2:10** but with what is proper for women who profess godliness—**with good works**.



# Widows in the church [Widows versus Widows Indeed]

- **“Widows indeed”** were women whose husbands had died and who did not have anyone else to care for them and they were not able to care for themselves (1 Timothy 5:3).
- The church was to care for them [**inherit in the word honor was the thought of financial support**] if they did not have anyone else - for example - children or grandchildren who could care for them.
- Notice that children were commanded to care for their aging parents - it was an obligation.
- **These widows devoted themselves to prayer** (1 Timothy 5:5).



# Widows in the church [Widows versus Widows Indeed]

- **1 Timothy 5:3** Honour widows who are truly widows.
- **1 Timothy 5:4** But if a widow has children or grandchildren, let them first learn to show godliness to their own household and to make some return to their parents, for this is pleasing in the sight of God.



# Widows in the church [Widows versus Widows Indeed]

- 1 Timothy 5:5 **She who is truly a widow**, **left all alone**, has set her hope on God and continues in supplications and prayers night and day,
- Timothy 5:6 but she who is self-indulgent is dead even while she lives.



# Widows in the church [Widows versus Widows Indeed]

- **1 Timothy 5:7** Command these things as well, so that they may be without reproach.
- **1 Timothy 5:8** But if **anyone** does not provide for his relatives, and especially for members of his household, he has denied the faith and is worse than an unbeliever.



# Enrolled Widows

- “**Enrolled widows**” or “**put on a list widows**” or “**taken into the number widows**” were widows who were to be fully supported by the church (1 Timothy 5:9).
- These women worked in service to the church. They were supported and worked in various capacities within the church.



# Enrolled Widows

- **1 Timothy 5:9** **Let a widow be enrolled** if she is not less than sixty years of age, having been the wife of one husband,

**1 Timothy 5:10** and having a reputation for good works: if she has brought up children, has shown hospitality, has washed the feet of the saints, has cared for the afflicted, and has devoted herself to every good work.





# Enrolled Widows

- **1 Timothy 5:11** **But refuse to enroll younger widows**, for when their passions draw them away from Christ, they desire to marry

**1 Timothy 5:12** and so incur condemnation for having abandoned their former faith.



# Enrolled Widows

- **1 Timothy 5:13** Besides that, they learn to be idlers, going about from house to house, and not only idlers, but also gossips and busybodies, saying what they should not.
- **1 Timothy 5:14** So I would have **younger widows marry**, **bear children**, **manage their households**, and give the adversary no occasion for slander.



# Enrolled Widows

- 1 Timothy 5:15 For some have already strayed after Satan.
- 1 Timothy 5:16 **If any believing woman has relatives who are widows, let her care for them.** Let the church not be burdened, so that it may care for those who are truly widows.



# Enrolled Widows

- [**Enrolled widows** served by helping orphans since she had experience bring up children; She also helped care for other widows; She served by receiving and showing hospitality to traveling Christians and she taught the younger women].



# The Silencing of Women [1 Corinthians 14:34; 1 Timothy 2:11]

- Women are not permitted “to teach” or “to have authority” in the assembly. Contextually, she was not to speak as it related to prophesying, speaking in tongues or praying.
- Today that would mean that she is not allowed to preach/teach/pray in a mixed assembly of Christians.
- Obviously, this did not and does not include singing or saying “amen” as a congregation.
- This role distinction between men and women is based on creation laws and not cultural norms.



# The Silencing of Women [1 Corinthians 14:34; 1 Timothy 2:11]

- 1 Timothy 2:11 - Women were “**learn in silence**” meaning a submissive disposition. [**this is not total silence** - **thus singing is permitted**]
- 1 Corinthians 14:34 - However in another sense, women were also to “**keep silence**” for it was a “**shame for women to speak in the church**” meaning complete silence.
- But, **context must be kept in view**. It relates to “**asking questions**” specifically, **but prophesying, speaking in tongues** and **praying** in the assembly would also apply.
- **Women were not to teach or pray in the assembly.**



# The Silencing of Women [1 Corinthians 14:34; 1 Timothy 2:11]

- 1 Timothy 2:8 I will therefore that men pray everywhere, lifting up holy hands, without wrath and doubting.
- “Men” would be **males** and wouldn’t include females.
- “Everywhere” would be “every place of assembly” or “every meeting place”.
- “Be saved in childbearing” has “childbearing” as a synecdoche for the domestic role of women as it relates to her nurturing responsibilities for her family.



# The Silencing of Women [1 Corinthians 14:34; 1 Timothy 2:11]

- 1 Timothy 2:11 Let the **woman learn in silence** with all subjection.
- 1 Timothy 2:12 But I suffer **not a woman to teach**, **nor** to usurp **authority over the man**, but to **be in silence**.
- 1 Timothy 2:15 Notwithstanding she shall be **saved in childbearing**, if they continue in faith and charity and holiness with sobriety





# The Silencing of Women [1 Corinthians 14:34; 1 Timothy 2:11]

- 1 Corinthians 14:34 Let your **women keep silence** in the churches: for it is not permitted unto them to speak; but [they are commanded] to be under obedience, as also saith the law.

1 Corinthians 14:35 And if they will learn anything, let them ask their husbands at home: for it is a **shame for women to speak in the church.**



# The Silencing of Women [1 Corinthians 14:34; 1 Timothy 2:11]

- 1 Timothy 2:8 I desire then that in every place the **men should pray**, lifting holy hands without anger or quarreling;
- 1 Timothy 2:9 **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,
- 1 Timothy 2:10 but with **what is proper for women who profess godliness**—with good works.



# The Silencing of Women [1 Corinthians 14:34; 1 Timothy 2:11]

- 1 Timothy 2:11 **Let a woman learn quietly with all submissiveness.**
- 1 Timothy 2:12 **I do not permit a woman to teach or to exercise authority over a man; rather, she is to remain quiet.**



# The Silencing of Women [1 Corinthians 14:34; 1 Timothy 2:11]

- 1 Timothy 2:13 For **Adam was formed first**, **then Eve**;
- 1 Timothy 2:14 and **Adam was not deceived**, **but the woman was deceived and became a transgressor**.
- 1 Timothy 2:15 **Yet she will be saved through childbearing**—if they continue in faith and love and holiness, with self-control.



# The Silencing of Women [1 Corinthians 14:34; 1 Timothy 2:11]

- 1 Corinthians 14:29 **Let two or three prophets speak, and let the others weigh what is said.**
- 1 Corinthians 14:30 **If a revelation is made to another sitting there, let the first be silent.**



# The Silencing of Women [1 Corinthians 14:34; 1 Timothy 2:11]

- 1 Corinthians 14:31 **For you can all prophesy one by one, so that all may learn and all be encouraged,**
- 1 Corinthians 14:32 and the spirits of prophets are subject to prophets.
- 1 Corinthians 14:33 **For God is not a God of confusion** but of peace. As in all the churches of the saints,



# The Silencing of Women [1 Corinthians 14:34; 1 Timothy 2:11]

- 1 Corinthians 14:34 **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.
- 1 Corinthians 14:35 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.



# The Silencing of Women [1 Corinthians 14:34; 1 Timothy 2:11]

- 1 Corinthians 14:36 Or was it from you that the word of God came? Or are you the only ones it has reached?
- 1 Corinthians 14:37 If anyone thinks that he is a prophet, or spiritual, he should acknowledge that the things I am writing to you are a command of the Lord.





# The Silencing of Women [1 Corinthians 14:34; 1 Timothy 2:11]

- **1 Corinthians 14:38** If anyone does not recognize this, he is not recognized.
- **1 Corinthians 14:39** So, my brothers, earnestly desire to prophesy, and do not forbid speaking in tongues.
- **1 Corinthians 14:40** **But all things should be done decently and in order.**



# GIVE A THUMBS UP



- There's even an emoji for it, but the affirming gesture of giving of a thumbs up is not universal. It is actually akin to raising your middle finger in places like Australia, Greece, and the Middle East. It's probably best to just use your words — especially in business transactions.



# PAY SALES TAX



- Foreigners who come to the U.S. for a little retail therapy are usually warned that prices are not what they seem. In other countries, the taxes are reflected in the price of the item you are purchasing. The idea of sales tax that gets applied upon checkout is not the norm.



# OPEN GIFTS IN FRONT OF THE GIVER



- It's always lovely to receive a gift. Although it may seem polite to open a present in front of the giver in order to thank them personally, it doesn't work that way everywhere. In some Asian cultures, it is considered rude to open gifts immediately after receiving them; you may actually be seen as greedy for doing so.



# REQUIRE PERSONAL SPACE



- We love our personal space here in the U.S. Invasion of that space in a social situation (especially with a stranger) makes Americans uncomfortable and is sometimes seen as unnecessarily aggressive (remember that Seinfeld episode?). Foreign travel blogs advise that it's best to give Americans space during conversation, and note that even minimal physical contact is a bit too intimate for most.



# SIT IN THE BACKSEAT



- Hail a cab in any U.S. city and the driver will likely look at you funny if you try to climb in the front with them. But in places like Australia and New Zealand, opting for the backseat is considered rude and elitist.



# WORK ALL THE TIME



- According to a 2013 report by the Center for Economic Policy and Research, almost 1 in 4 American workers don't have any guaranteed paid leave, and those that do only get an average of 21 days. "The U.S. is the only advanced economy in the world that does not guarantee its workers paid vacation," the authors wrote. Compare that to some European countries, like Spain and Germany, where employers are required to offer workers about a month of paid vacation days per year.



# Body Language

- In the United States and other European countries like Spain, France, and Germany, using direct eye contact is accepted and considered to be a sign of attentiveness, honesty, confidence, and respect for what the other is saying. In some Latin-American, Asian, and African cultures, the opposite is true. Direct eye contact might be considered aggressive. In these cultures, avoiding direct eye contact is a sign of respect, especially to elders or authority figures (bosses, professors).





# Holy Kiss

- **Romans 16:16** Greet one another with a holy kiss. All the churches of Christ greet you.
- **1 Corinthians 16:20** All the brothers send you greetings. Greet one another with a holy kiss.
- **2 Corinthians 13:12** Greet one another with a holy kiss.
- **1 Thessalonians 5:26** Greet all the brothers with a holy kiss.
- **1 Peter 5:14** Greet one another with the kiss of love. Peace to all of you who are in Christ.
- **Acts 20:37** And there was much weeping on the part of all; they embraced Paul and kissed him,



# Head Covering (Different Customs)

- **Genesis 38:13** And when Tamar was told, “Your father-in-law is going up to Timnah to shear his sheep,”
- **Genesis 38:14** she took off her widow's garments and covered herself with a veil, wrapping herself up, and sat at the entrance to Enaim, which is on the road to Timnah. For she saw that Shelah was grown up, and she had not been given to him in marriage.
- **Genesis 38:15** When Judah saw her, he thought she was a prostitute, for she had covered her face.



# In the Beginning

- **Genesis 2:18** Then the Lord God said, “It is not good that the man should be alone; I will make him a helper fit for him.”
- **Genesis 2:19** Now out of the ground the Lord God had formed every beast of the field and every bird of the heavens and brought them to the man to see what he would call them. And whatever the man called every living creature, that was its name.



# In the Beginning

- **Genesis 2:20** The man gave names to all livestock and to the birds of the heavens and to every beast of the field. But for Adam there was not found a helper fit for him.
- **Genesis 2:21** So the Lord God caused a deep sleep to fall upon the man, and while he slept took one of his ribs and closed up its place with flesh.



# In the Beginning

- **Genesis 2:22** And the rib that the Lord God had taken from the man he made into a woman and brought her to the man.
- **Genesis 2:23** Then the man said, “This at last is bone of my bones and flesh of my flesh; she shall be called Woman, because she was taken out of Man.”



# In the Beginning

- **Genesis 2:24** Therefore a man shall leave his father and his mother and hold fast to his wife, and they shall become one flesh.
- **Genesis 2:25** And the man and his wife were both naked and were not ashamed.



# In the Beginning

- **Genesis 3:6** So when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was a delight to the eyes, and that the tree was to be desired to make one wise, she took of its fruit and ate, and she also gave some to her husband who was with her, and he ate.
- **Genesis 3:9** But the Lord God called to the man and said to him, “Where are you?”
- **Genesis 3:16** To the woman he said, “I will surely multiply your pain in childbearing; in pain you shall bring forth children. Your desire shall be contrary to your husband, but he shall rule over you.”



# In the Beginning

- **Genesis 3:20** The man called his wife's name Eve, because she was the mother of all living.





# Women Prophesying and Head Covering

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



# Women Prophesying and Head Covering

- **1 Corinthians 11:4** Every man who **prays or prophesies** with his head covered dishonors his head,
- **1 Corinthians 11:5** but every wife [woman] who **prays or prophesies** with her head uncovered dishonors her head, since it is the same as if her head were shaven.
- **1 Corinthians 11:6** For if a wife [woman] 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.



# Women Prophesying and Head Covering

- **1 Corinthians 11:7** 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.
- **1 Corinthians 11:8** For man was not made from woman, but woman from man.
- **1 Corinthians 11:9** Neither was man created for woman, but woman for man.
- **1 Corinthians 11:10** That is why a wife ought to have a symbol of authority on her head, because of the angels [messengers].



# Women Prophesying and Head Covering

- **1 Corinthians 11:11** Nevertheless, in the Lord woman is not independent of man nor man of woman;
- **1 Corinthians 11:12** for as woman was made from man, so man is now born of woman. And all things are from God.



# Women Prophesying and Head Covering

- **1 Corinthians 11:13** Judge for yourselves: is it proper for a wife to pray to God with her head uncovered?
- **1 Corinthians 11:14** Does not nature itself teach you that if a man wears long hair it is a disgrace for him,
- **1 Corinthians 11:15** but if a woman has long hair, it is her glory? For her hair is given to her for a covering.
- **1 Corinthians 11:16** If anyone is inclined to be contentious, we have no such practice, nor do the churches of God.

