

Man, and Woman's Role in the Church

From the beginning of time, God had a plan for the salvation of mankind (Titus 2:1-2). We see that plan culminate in the death, burial and resurrection of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

God's plan for man was for His only begotten Son to die for our sins (Acts 5:31). It is through that sacrifice that God has made it possible for man to be forgiven (Acts 13:38). That forgiveness comes through obedience to God. As one comes to believe in the gospel of Christ, repents of one's sins, confesses Christ as their Savior and is baptized, God forgives them of their past sins (Acts 22:16). Baptism puts one in a spiritual relationship with God and Christ Jesus (2 Cor.6:18).

When one is baptized, they are added to those who have been saved before them. The inspired scriptures call this group or body of the saved the "church"(Acts 2:47). The word church comes from the root word "ecclesia". Ecclesia means the "called out". Those who have been saved, have been called out of darkness into his glorious light (1 Peter 2:9). Those who are the called out are members of the ecclesia, the church, the group of the saved.

The term ecclesia also carries with it the idea of a group of free citizens, in a free city, meeting together to conduct business. God's plan for mankind was for those who have been saved to join together in a given locality to conduct the business of the Lord. That business is to preach the Gospel, edify the saints and provide benevolence to Christians in need (Eph.4:12).

In order to carry out the work in an organized way, God provided a plan of organization for this local work. The work is to be guided by the elders. Deacons are to assist in the work (Phil.1:1). Evangelists are to preach the Word. Each member is to work together to carry out the work of the Lord (Eph 4:11-16).

God has given both men and women equal and important roles in this local work. Men are to take the leading role. Women are to take the supporting role.

God has given Men and Women different roles from the beginning. Man is to be the head of the woman (1 Cor.11:3; Gen.3:16; Eph.5:22-24). The woman is to be in subjection to the man (Eph.5:24; Col.3:18; 1 Cor.11:8-9). The woman was given as a helper for man, not to rule over him. (Gen.2:18; 1 Cor.11:8 -9)

Paul bases man's headship over woman in the creation and the fall of man. Woman is of man (1 Cor.11:8; I Tim.1:13; Gen.2:21-22). Man, being first formed, first establishes his headship over the woman (1 Tim.2:13). Woman is for man (1 Cor.11:9). She was made for the sake of man (Gen.2:18). The man is incomplete without her. Woman was deceived in the transgression (1 Tim.2:14; Gen.3:16)

Woman's role of subjection to man does not make her inferior to man or second class. Man and woman are of the same nature. They are equal in intelligence. They are equal morally. Man and woman are equal in Christ. (Gal.3:28)

Women are prohibited from taking a leadership role in the work of the church or in the worship. They are to keep silence, in subjection, not assuming the leadership role (1 Tim.2:11-14). They cannot be elders, preachers, deacons, teachers over the men. A woman cannot teach a class in which Christian men are

present. The man must take the leading role in order to keep the woman from violating the law of God of not usurping the authority of or teaching over the man.

The fact that women are prohibited from taking the leading role doesn't make women any less important in the work of the Lord than the man. Their roles are different. Women are so important to the work. There are many things God has given them to do. Many men would not be where they are if they did not have a strong Christian woman behind them.

This role is something denominations have lost the understanding of, and liberal brethren are following the same path. They have women serving in worship and in other areas. We as Christians have to keep the understanding of the Word of God and not let society influence what we do in the Lord's church. We must continue to abide in the Word of God, working together to accomplish the goal of Heaven.