**Mutual Submission in Christ: Gender Roles in the Church**

**Opening Question:**

Share about a time when you experienced a different cultural practice or custom.

**Our agenda:**

1. Week 1: What did women do in the Bible?
2. **Week 2: What about 1 Timothy 2 & 1 Corinthians 14?**
3. Week 3: What does it look like to live on earth as it is in heaven?

**Christians of differing opinions on this topic hold to common convictions:**

1. The Holy Scriptures are the inspired, inerrant Word of God, the only infallible rule of faith and practice. This authoritative Word is true in all that it teaches.
2. One’s view of women’s participation in the church is not an essential element to the catholic faith, evangelical Protestantism or the Reformed Tradition.
3. Many Evangelicals, fully committed to the absolute authority of Scripture, have come to believe that God’s Word celebrates the full participation of women in the leadership of the church.
4. Many Evangelicals, fully committed to the absolute authority of Scripture, have come to believe that God’s Word prohibits the full participation of women in the leadership of the church.

**Our thesis:**

“Relationships in the household of faith are based on the transforming work of the Spirit of Christ. The defensive, competitive, manipulative and domineering relational strategies of the old nature give way to mutual submission and gift-based every member ministry in Christ. The church is no longer bound but free from patriarchal and matriarchal control. Nothing the world has to offer, from traditional male headship to radical feminism, comes close to expressing the new relational dynamic created in Christ Jesus.”

- Doug Webster, *Mutual Submission in Christ*

**Summary of previous week**

**Week 2: What about 1 Timothy 2 & 1 Corinthians 14**

**What is cultural and transcultural?**

**“Great one another with a holy kiss.”**

**- Romans 16:16**

**Understanding 1 Timothy 2:11-14**

*A woman should learn in quietness and full submission. I do not permit a woman to teach or to assume authority over a man;she must be quiet. For Adam was formed first, then Eve. And Adam was not the one deceived; it was the woman who was deceived and became a sinner.”*

**Context of 1 Timothy**

“As I urged you when I went into Macedonia, stay there in Ephesus so that you may command**certain people*not to teach false doctrines any longer or to devote themselves*****to myths and endless genealogies”** (1 Tim 1:3-4).

“Another interesting fact about 1 Timothy is that the myths and endless genealogies circulating in Ephesus included the idea that Eve was created before Adam and was superior to him….It is likely that Paul was writing to correct false notions that were circulating rather than suggesting that Eve’s deception should be the basis for banning women from teaching.”

- Gail Wallace, *Professor at Azusa Pacific University*

**#1: “A woman should learn”**

**#2: “A woman should learn in quietness and full submission. I do not permit a woman to teach”**

Speaking of Junia the apostle, “This too is clearly an authoritative role of Christian leadership that includes teaching doctrine to adult men and women.”

– Craig Blomberg, *Distinguished Professor of New Testament at Denver Seminary*

**#3: “or to assume authority over a man”**

“Authority”

 “The correction of an abuse of a privilege is not the same as the ruling out of a proper use of a privilege, in this case the privilege of speaking in worship or even teaching. **Paul is not laying down first principles** here, he is **correcting an existing problem**, and presumably where and whenever he found a similar problem he would do so again, whoever it might involve.”

*– Ben Witherington, Professor of New Testament Interpretation at Asbury Theological Seminary*

**#4: “For Adam was formed first, then Eve….it was the woman who was deceived”**

**“Formed”**

Genesis 1:26-27 - “Then God said, ‘Let us make man in our image, in our likeness and **let them rule** over the fish of the sea and the birds of the air, over the livestock, over all the earth, and over all the creatures that move along the ground. **So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them.”**

Genesis 2:16-17 – “And the LORD God **commanded the man,** ‘You are free to eat from any tree in the garden; but you must not eat from the tree of knowledge of good and evil, for when you eat of it you will surely die.”

Genesis 3:1 – “Now the serpent was more crafty than any of the wild animals the LORD God had made. **He said to the woman,** “Did God really say, ‘You must not eat from any tree in the garden?’”

“Why then does Paul finish off with the explanation about Adam and Eve? Remember that his basic point is to insist that women, too, must be allowed to learn and study as Christians, and not be kept in unlettered, uneducated boredom and drudgery. Well, the story of Adam and Eve makes the point well: look what happened when Eve was deceived. Women need to learn just as much as men do.” - *N.T. Wright, Professor of New Testament at St. Andrews*

**Summary**

**What is cultural?**

**What is transcultural?**

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

**34**Women[[f](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=1%20Corinthians+14" \l "fen-NIV-28713f" \o "See footnote f)] should remain silent in the churches. They are not allowed to speak, but must be in submission, as the law says. **35**If they want to inquire about something, they should ask their own husbands at home; for it is disgraceful for a woman to speak in the church.[[g](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=1%20Corinthians+14" \l "fen-NIV-28714g" \o "See footnote g)]

- 1 Corinthians 14:34-35

**“**But every woman **who prays or prophesies**with her head uncovered dishonors her head—it is the same as having her head shaved.

- 1 Corinthians 11:6

“What the passage cannot possibly mean is that women had no part in leading public worship, speaking out loud of course as they did so. This is the positive point that is proved at once by the other relevant Corinthian passage, 1 Corinthians 11.2–11, since there Paul is giving instructions for how women are to be dressed while engaging in such activities, instructions which obviously wouldn’t be necessary if they had been silent in church all the time. But that is the one thing we can be sure of.”

**N.T Wright, *Professor of New Testament University of St. Andrews***

**“Remain silent”**

**“In Submission, as the law says.”**

**“Disgraceful”**

“Everything depends upon what Paul meant by speaking up in church. No one, as far as I know, has ever thought Paul literally meant that women should not say anything in church…We should remember that in this same letter Paul expressed no reservations about women praying and prophesying alongside men in public worship (1 Cor. 11)

It is more reasonable to conclude that Paul was prohibiting some form of provocative and disruptive speech than it is to believe that he is directly contradicting his earlier acceptance of women praying and prophesying. What he was silencing was not prayer and prophesy, but a negative interrogation that resulted in humiliation and disgrace.

Nor did he permit men to engage in this kind of speech, as if it was acceptable for them but unacceptable for women. What was shameful was not women praying and prophesying but women engaging in abusive speech which was hostile, egotistical, and disruptive.”

**Doug Webster, Professor of Pastoral Theology Beeson Divinity School**:

### ****CONFUSION IN CORINTH****

### ***Paul Through Mediterranean Eyes: Cultural Studies in 1 Corinthians by Ken Bailey***

### ****Summary****

### ****What is cultural?****

### ****What is trans-cultural?****