

1. THE DIFFICULT PASSAGES. (1 Timothy 2:8–12; 1 Corinthians 14:33–35)

2. PAUL'S VIEW OF WOMEN BEFORE HE MET JESUS

Philippians 3:5–6 (ESV) ⁵ *circumcised on the eighth day, of the people of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin, a Hebrew of Hebrews; as to the law, a Pharisee;* ⁶ *as to zeal, a persecutor of the church; as to righteousness under the law, blameless.*

3. PAUL'S NEW VIEW OF HIMSELF AFTER HE MET JESUS

Philippians 3:7–8 (ESV) ⁷ *But whatever gain I had, I counted as loss for the sake of Christ.* ⁸ *Indeed, I count everything as loss because of the surpassing worth of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. For his sake I have suffered the loss of all things and count them as rubbish, in order that I may gain Christ.*

4. PAUL'S VIEW OF OTHERS AFTER HE MET JESUS

Galatians 3:26–28 (ESV) ²⁶ *for in Christ Jesus you are all sons of God, through faith.* ²⁷ *For as many of you as were baptized into Christ have put on Christ.* ²⁸ *There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free, there is no male and female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus.*

5. THE OVERARCHING PRINCIPLE FOR UNDERSTANDING GOD'S PLAN FOR THE ROLE OF WOMEN IN THE CHURCH.

“there is no male and female,”

Women and men are equal at the foot of the cross. We are all one in Christ Jesus!

6. WHAT CHANGED PAUL'S VIEW?

The apostle Paul met the greatest liberator of women the world has ever known: Jesus Christ.

7. THE AMAZING TRANSFORMATION OF WOMEN IN THE CHURCH

Acts 18:1-3, 18-19, 24-26; Romans 19:3-4; Philippians 4:2-3

8. WOMEN PROPHETS IN THE CHURCHES

1 Corinthians 11:4-5, 14:34-35; Acts 21:8-9; Acts 2:14-18

9. THE ONE RESTRICTED ROLE

1 Timothy 3:1–5 (ESV) 1 The saying is trustworthy: If anyone aspires to the office of overseer, he desires a noble task. 2 Therefore an overseer must be above reproach, the husband of one wife, sober-minded, self-controlled, respectable, hospitable, able to teach, 3 not a drunkard, not violent but gentle, not quarrelsome, not a lover of money. 4 He must manage his own household well, with all dignity keeping his children submissive, 5 for if someone does not know how to manage his own household, how will he care for God's church?

The phrase, “managing his own household” sets the standard for the role of the pastor. This establishes that the pastor must be the leader of his household in order to lead the many households that make up the church. The idea of a man being the head of the home is not a cultural teaching. It is the very way God instituted the home from the day He brought Eve to Adam. So, it only makes sense that if the church is the sum total of its many households, then the pastor must be the head of his household leading the heads of the households in the church.

CONCLUSION: Because many of the instructions that we see in Scripture were connected to the culture norms in that day, it is my conviction that women in our culture have much more freedom in Christ and in the church than in the early church. It seems to me that if a woman in our church has a word from God, she should be allowed to share it.

From my perspective, I can even accept a woman occasionally addressing the entire church with a word from the Word of God. But, the week by week teaching to the church must be a man who is using his platform, not only to expound the Scriptures, but to guide the church family.