

Should Women Have Authority Over Men?

'I want you to know and realise that Jesus is the Head of every man, the head of a woman is her husband, and the Head of Jesus is God' (1 Corinthians 11:3).

Paul wants us to know and realise; that is to get it firmly in our heads, take it into our hearts, not dismiss it, and we are not to take it lightly. If people are happy with God being the Head of Jesus; then if they are happy with Jesus being the Head of the church and also of every man, why do they get upset with the continuation of the divine order that the husband is the head of every woman?

This is an issue that can keep people out of God's will and therefore out His Kingdom. The Lord is not pleased with women's liberation because women should never have authority over men. Sadly though, women's liberation has seeped into the modern-day church, and God's teaching on this subject is discarded by many as just being the culture of the day. That is so wrong because that infers some of the Bible is outdated, something we all know is untrue. The Lord expects women to be submissive to their husbands today, just as they were to be so when the scriptures were written. The Lord's instruction applies as much today as it did in Jesus' day, but this generation chooses to ignore God's divine order as being passé. People disagreed with Paul on this matter 2,000 years ago, so it is no surprise that people still disagree with what is written. Remember that all scripture is God-breathed (2 Timothy 3:16) for instruction to conform us to God's will and all scripture must be obeyed. We cannot pick and choose which verses we will adhere to, and which verses to ignore.

In New Testament times, a woman who was caught in prostitution would sometimes have her head shaved as a sign of her disgrace. Once her hair grew back, she was no longer considered dishonoured. A woman who usurped the authority of men was considered a disgrace in the same manner, and it may surprise some people that it even displeases the angels when women act in a domineering way. If it displeases the angels, how much more would it displease the Lord? Apostle Paul said that we are to 'Pattern yourselves after me (follow his example) as I imitate and follow Jesus the Messiah'. In order to imitate Paul, we need to follow his example of God's divine order. It is written; 'If any man prays or prophesies with his head covered (by a woman) is a disgrace to his Head (Jesus)'. How many men would feel comfortable about being a disgrace to Jesus? 'Any woman who publicly prays or prophesies with her head uncovered (by her husband) dishonours her head (husband); it is the same as if her head were shaved'. When God says 'any' women He means any and every woman, and God means what He says. 'For a man ought not to have his head covered (by a woman) for he is the image and glory of God (his function of government reflects the majesty of the divine Rule) but the woman is the glory of the man. For man was not created from woman, but woman from man. Neither was man created for the woman but the woman was created for the man. Therefore, she should be subject to his authority and should cover her head as a symbol of her submission to authority, that she may show reverence as do the angels and not displease them. If a woman has long hair it is her glory; for her hair has been given to her for a covering. If anyone is disposed to be argumentative and contentious about this, we recognise no other worship than this, nor do the churches of God generally' (1 Corinthians 11:1 to 16). Can we understand that the early church would not recognise a woman's authority over a man? It was considered a disgrace.

'The women should keep quiet in the churches, for they are not authorised to speak. They should take a subordinate place, just as the Law also says (Genesis 3:16), but if there is anything they want to learn, they should ask their own husbands at home, for it is disgraceful for a woman to talk in church; for her to usurp and exercise authority over men in the church' (1 Corinthians 14:34 & 35).

We can see by these scriptures that it is a disgrace for a woman to have authority over men in the church. In contrast, it is considered service to the Lord when a woman is submissive. 'Wives, be subject to your own husbands as a service to the Lord. For the husband is the head of the wife as Jesus is Head of the church, Himself the Saviour of His Body. As the church is subject to Jesus, so let wives also be subject in everything to their husbands' (Ephesians 5:22 to 24).

Men are not saviours to women because there is only one Saviour, Who is Jesus 'Himself the Saviour of His body'. Women do not need men in order to get into heaven; they need only the Lord Jesus. 'There is now no distinction. There is neither Jew nor Gentile, there is neither slave nor free man, there is neither male nor female; for you are all one in Jesus the Messiah' (Galatians 3:28). 'Let a woman learn in quietness, in entire submissiveness. I allow no woman to teach or have authority over men; she is to remain silent in the assembly, for Adam was formed first, then Eve, and it was not Adam who was deceived, but it was the woman who was deceived and deluded and fell into transgression. Nevertheless, the sentence put on women does not hinder their soul's salvation. They will be saved if they continue in faith and love and holiness, through the birth of the Divine Child' (1 Timothy 2:11 to 15).

Peter happened to agree with Paul on this subject. A Christian wife can lead her unsaved husband to the Lord by being submissive. 'You married women, be submissive to your own husbands so that even if any (husbands) do not obey the Word of God, they may be won over, not by discussion but by the Godly lives of their wives when they observe the pure and modest way in which you conduct yourselves together with your reverence' (1 Peter 3:1 & 2).

'Bid the older women to be reverent and become engaged in sacred service, not slanderers or slaves to drink. They are to give good counsel and be teachers of what is right and noble so that they will wisely train the young women to be temperate, and to love their husbands and children and be self-controlled, chaste, homemakers, good-natured, subordinating themselves to their husbands, that the Word of God may not be blasphemed' (Titus 2:3 to 5).

For the Lord to have these scriptures included in the Bible, so strongly, so many times, He would have meant what He said at that time, and we are not to have the opinion such teaching is 'old-fashioned'. The Bible is the unchangeable Word of God, to be obeyed for all time. These scriptures may not be popular in today's society, but to continue giving women authority over men, or women usurping men's God-given authority in the churches, is to rebel against God and suffer the consequences. At best, it could stunt spiritual growth and keep people in the realm of an arrogant young Christian or at worst, it could keep people out of heaven.

For a woman to take an authoritative place over a man in any area is against God's divine order; that is why a woman should never be the head pastor of a church. It is God's divine order that a man should be the head and under his headship, women can serve God in the church. Many women have a beautiful gift of teaching given to her by God, but let her exercise that gift within the boundaries of God's order of things and let her not usurp the rightful place of male headship which is God-given. We have heard the phrase, 'She wears the pants in that family'. The Lord even outlines what clothing men and women should wear. 'The woman shall not wear that which pertains to a man, neither shall a man put on a woman's garment, for all that do so are an abomination to the Lord your God' (Deuteronomy 22:5). Men are not to wear clothing that is designed for women, and women are not to wear clothing that is designed for men. God says it is an abomination.

How many woman pastors do we know, who wear dark coloured trousers to show their 'authority'? Not only are woman pastors usurping men's God-given leadership, but the fact the woman pastor usually wears men's trousers – which are clothes that pertain to men – is an abomination to the Lord our God. It is not so much the wearing of trousers, which of course can be specifically designed to be worn by women – there is nothing wrong with that – it is the dominant authority the trousers give the women. Do these women feel as authoritative in floral dresses? No! That is why they wear the dark coloured trousers. In modern terms, it is sometimes called 'power-dressing'. They dress to show their 'power'. Churches run by these dominatrix are out of God's expressly given order of things and her clothing is an abomination to God, if she wears trousers to show her domination. It is no wonder that these churches are filled with Christians who are immature in God when the leadership is out of line. There is no record of an early church in the New Testament that was run by a woman, and those churches are the example we should follow today. Most certainly the women were fully active in the churches and there were many women who were mentioned as being wonderful sisters in the Body;

some were even deaconesses, but none were the head of any church. That is God's divine order of things and God doesn't change!

You will notice that woman pastors are often very aggressive, domineering women who love to be in control. They are frequently the disciplinarian in the home and usually have quiet husbands who let her rule; many are divorced from their husbands. They hate being told they are out of God's divine order and usually – and sometimes aggressively – refuse to listen. If the woman was meek and obedient to the Lord and her husband as she should be, she would never consider a leadership role except to teach children and younger women, and do sacred service as the scriptures clearly tell us. There is often an evil spirit behind such domineering behaviour in a woman; it is commonly called a Jezebel spirit. If you are attending a church lead by a woman, challenge her with this text and watch her reaction. If she is genuinely ignorant of the scriptures then she will take immediate steps to come under the authority of a man and obey God's divine order. If she reacts with anger then you will know she has a Jezebel spirit and it would be wise to find another church that is in line with God's divine order. Would you want to attend a church that is predominantly run by an evil spirit?

We are speaking of a church with a woman at its head and with men who are being submissive to her. We are certainly not speaking about a wife whose husband is the head of a church and she is his God-given support for his calling. When a woman is in submission to her husband, as the scriptures say she is to be, then the wife is invaluable and precious to her husband and the church. That is a God-ordained balance.

This in no way means that a husband can be unkind or violent towards his wife or children. Women are not to be downtrodden, bullied or physically struck. They can have an opinion while maintaining submission. The Lord hates men who act violently towards their wives. See the second half of Malachi 2:16; 'For the Lord, the God of Israel says: "I hate divorce and marital separation and him who covers his wife with violence. Therefore keep a watch on your spirit so that it may be controlled by My Spirit that you deal not, treacherously and faithlessly with your marriage mate.'"

Are you as a husband prepared to give your life up for your wife? Do you love your wife as much as you love yourself? 'Husbands, love your wives, as Jesus loved the church and gave Himself up for her ... Even so husbands should love their wives as being in a sense, their own bodies. He who loves his own wife loves himself. For no man ever hated his own flesh, but cherishes it, as Jesus does the church ... Let each man love his wife as being in a sense his very own self' (Ephesians 5:25 to 33).

Fathers are to be good to their children. 'Fathers, do not provoke your children to anger, but rear them tenderly, in the admonition of the Lord' (Ephesians 6:4).

If a husband does not treat his wife well, then God will not answer the man's prayers and will, in fact cut his prayers off. 'You married men should live considerately with your wives, with an intelligent recognition, honouring the woman as physically the weaker vessel, but realising that you are the joint heirs of the grace of life, in order that your prayers may not be hindered or cut off' (1 Peter 3:7).

So we see that men must be kind and loving to their wives and children, and wives must be in submission to their husbands. Are you the husband of a woman who is the head pastor of a church? You and your wife are both out of divine order and the order must be corrected according to the scriptures. Are you a single woman who is the head pastor of a church? You are out of divine order and you need to pray and ask God to rise up a man who can be the head. Are you an Anglican woman seeking to be ordained? You are out of divine order. You can serve God in the full sense without usurping the authority God gave to men. Do you disagree with this text? You are not alone. People argued with Apostle Paul about this very issue 2,000 years ago. Do you agree with this text? Then may the peace of our Lord Jesus be upon you.

Amen and God bless you.

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