

The Duties of the Priest Part 18 Women Standing in the Church

“28 And it shall come to pass afterward, that I will pour out my spirit upon all flesh; and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, your old men shall dream dreams, your young men shall see visions: 29 And also upon the servants and upon the handmaids in those days will I pour out my spirit.” (Joel 2:28-29 KJV)

In the beginning God had created man in His own image and likeness. ***“26 And God said, Let us make man in our image, after our likeness: and let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, and over the cattle, and over all the earth, and over every creeping thing that creepeth upon the earth. 27 So God created man in his own image, in the image of God created he him; male and female created he them.” (Genesis 1:26-27 KJV)*** God took the man that he created and put him in the garden that he planted eastward in Eden to work there and take care of it, ***“8 And the LORD God planted a garden eastward in Eden; and there he put the man whom he had formed. 15 And the LORD God took the man, and put him into the garden of Eden to dress it and to keep it.” (Genesis 2:8, 15 KJV)*** And God saw that it was not good for the man to be alone, ***“18 And the LORD God said, It is not good that the man should be alone; I will make him an help meet for him.” (Genesis 2:18 KJV)*** God decided to make to the man a help meet for him; most likely because the man was in need of help. But there was not found a help meet for Adam as we read here: ***“20 And Adam gave names to all cattle, and to the fowl of the air, and to every beast of the field; but for Adam there was not found an help meet for him.” (Genesis 2:20 KJV)*** Therefore God did the following: ***“21 And the LORD God caused a deep sleep to fall upon Adam, and he slept: and he took one of his ribs, and closed up the flesh instead thereof; 22 And the rib, which the LORD God had taken from man, made he a woman, and brought her unto the man.” (Genesis 2:21-22 KJV)*** Adam recognized the woman being made out of him, accepted her, and united with her in the matrimony of marriage and the two became one: ***“23 And Adam said, This is now bone of my bones, and flesh of my flesh: she shall be called Woman, because she was taken out of Man. 24 Therefore shall a man leave his father and his mother, and shall cleave unto his wife: and they shall be one flesh.” (Genesis 2:23-24 KJV)***

Therefore, God made man and woman as the perfect combination to manage His creation, and to put up a family, to manage a company, to administer a project, institution, government, and even the church.

“4 And Deborah, a prophetess, the wife of Lapidoth, she judged Israel at that time. 5 And she dwelt under the palm tree of Deborah between Ramah and Bethel in mount Ephraim: and the children of Israel came up to her for judgment. 6 And she sent and called Barak the son of Abinoam out of Kedeshnaphtali, and said unto him, Hath not the LORD God of Israel commanded, saying, Go and draw toward mount Tabor, and take with thee ten thousand men of the children of Naphtali and of the children of Zebulun? 7 And I will draw unto thee to the river Kishon Sisera, the captain of Jabin's army, with his chariots and his multitude; and I will deliver him into thine hand. 8 And Barak said unto her, If thou wilt go with me, then I will go: but if thou wilt not go with me, then I will not go. 9 And she said, I will surely go with thee: notwithstanding the journey that thou takest shall

not be for thine honour; for the LORD shall sell Sisera into the hand of a woman. And Deborah arose, and went with Barak to Kedesh. 10 And Barak called Zebulun and Naphtali to Kedesh; and he went up with ten thousand men at his feet: and Deborah went up with him.” (Judges 4:4-10 KJV)

Everyone agree that women are also called by God to serve Him. Yet the controversy about women standing and preaching in the church meetings need to be addressed. Should a woman stand or lead a congregation? The above quoted event in the life of the church in the Old Testament, the Israelites – the chosen people of God, from the book of Judges clearly gives us the conclusion that women can lead in the church. Though some people put up requirements and limitations toward the women ministers, the truth behind is that women could lead a congregation. Besides the narrative of Deborah, there are many more women in the Bible who have been faithful and fruitful in their ministry to the Lord. The following are few facts from the Bible:

a) When God decided to send His Son to save the world, He chose a virgin to bear His Son Jesus. This virgin, who is named Mary, was at a youth age. But I give credit to her answer when she heard what the angel of the Lord was telling her. ***“35 And the angel answered and said unto her, The Holy Ghost shall come upon thee, and the power of the Highest shall overshadow thee: therefore also that holy thing which shall be born of thee shall be called the Son of God. 36 And, behold, thy cousin Elisabeth, she hath also conceived a son in her old age: and this is the sixth month with her, who was called barren. 37 For with God nothing shall be impossible. 38 And Mary said, Behold the handmaid of the Lord; be it unto me according to thy word. And the angel departed from her.” (Luke 1:35-38 KJV)***

A virgin in the youth age accepted to face the society and the community to mock her and accuse her for being pregnant without a husband. She accepted the task and took the responsibility because she has faith in God. ***This is the woman that although she is a weak creature, oppressed and suppressed and certain times denied standing and preaching in God's church, in her silent attitude and gentle spirit she has done the great task that God entrusted to her. This is the fact, that God has given His grace to mankind through the woman.***

b) After the cruel death of Jesus on the cross, He was buried in a tomb. His men disciples deserted Him and fled away to save their own lives. But the women did not neglect Jesus even while on the road to Calvary, and even after His death they prepared spices for His body and they were the first who went to the tomb early after Sabbath. His disciples had fled away, but the woman with faith they continued to serve Him. ***“1 Now upon the first day of the week, very early in the morning, they came unto the sepulchre, bringing the spices which they had prepared, and certain others with them. 2 And they found the stone rolled away from the sepulchre. 3 And they entered in, and found not the body of the Lord Jesus. 4 And it came to pass, as they were much perplexed thereabout, behold, two men stood by them in shining garments: 5 And as they were afraid, and bowed down their faces to the earth, they said unto them, Why seek ye the living among the dead? 6 He is not here, but is risen: remember how he spake unto you when he was yet in Galilee, 7 Saying, The Son of man must be delivered into the hands of sinful men, and be crucified, and the third day rise again. 8 And they remembered his words, 9 And returned from the sepulchre, and told all these things unto the eleven, and to all the rest. 10 It was Mary Magdalene and Joanna, and Mary the mother of James, and other women that were with them, which told these things unto the apostles. 11 And their words seemed to them as idle tales, and they believed***

them not. 12 Then arose Peter, and ran unto the sepulchre; and stooping down, he beheld the linen clothes laid by themselves, and departed, wondering in himself at that which was come to pass.” (Luke 24:1-12 KJV) This is another fact credited for the women: There are situations that woman can do better than man; when men cannot do women carry out; when men cannot go, women are in front.

Similarly, in the family which is a small congregation in the church, and the Lord has commanded, “1 Children, obey your parents in the Lord: for this is right. 2 Honour thy father and mother; which is the first commandment with promise; 3 That it may be well with thee, and thou mayest live long on the earth.” (Ephesians 6:1-3 KJV) * God has commanded the children to obey their fathers and their mothers because parents are the first teachers of God’s Word to their children. * Whether we accept it or not, our mothers have been our first teachers! However, wives are called to help their husbands in teaching the children in the family and to be under the authority of man. “3 But I would have you know, that the head of every man is Christ; and the head of the woman is the man; and the head of Christ is God.” (1 Corinthians 11:3 KJV)

A. There are certain sayings of Paul that we need to understand before we conclude that women are not allowed to teach or stand in the church. Here we will discuss these saying to draw out good conclusions:

1. “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. 35 And if they will learn any thing, let them ask their husbands at home: for it is a shame for women to speak in the church.” (1 Corinthians 14:34-35 KJV) When we just merely or first read this Scripture, at once the thing that comes into our mind is that women by no means should be allowed to stand and preach in the church meetings. But let us study and understand the set up of the Corinthian church so that our minds will be at peace. In the church meetings in Corinth, all the men were sitting together on one side and all the women were sitting together on the another side. During their worship, while speaking in tongues and preaching was going on, any woman who wanted to ask the explanation and interpretation of tongues or any other question should ask her husband who is sitting away from her with the other men. So to avoid disturbance to the rest of members while the church meeting was going on, women had to remain seated and silent while in the church. Paul suggested that if any woman had a question or wanted to enquire something she should ask her husband at home and not while the church meeting was going on, in order to maintain orderliness at the meeting while speaking in tongues and receiving its interpretation during worship. This explanation is satisfactory because Paul was speaking to the church about the issue of speaking in tongues and the need for interpretation of tongues. Already there must have been confusion and questions inside the hearts of everyone, and there would be more disorder if women seated in their pews are allowed to speak to their husbands.

2. “11 Let the woman learn in silence with all subjection. 12 But I suffer not a woman to teach, nor to usurp authority over the man, but to be in silence.” (1 Timothy 2:11-12 KJV) Paul was speaking here that women should be in submission to their husbands and they should not teach their husbands, but instead they should listen and receive the teaching of the Lord from their husbands. The men should be the one to lead their families and to direct them with God’s Word and instructions. That is correct because even in the book of Genesis God instructed the man and not the woman when He gave

Him the instruction of which fruit he should not eat, “16 And the LORD God commanded the man, saying, Of every tree of the garden thou mayest freely eat: 17 But of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, thou shalt not eat of it: for in the day that thou eatest thereof thou shalt surely die.” (Genesis 2:16-17 KJV) Consequently the man needed to instruct the woman with those commands when God will bring her to him. * God is expecting from the men to lead their families in the fear of the Lord, and women are called to help their husbands in their leadership. * But if the man fails God and refuses to respond to His Word then God may use his wife to teach the children and raise them in the fear of the Lord. Otherwise, Paul would not permit a woman to teach or to assume authority over a man who is her husband as long as the man is obedient to God. Paul would not permit a woman to teach or to assume authority over a man who is her husband, but it does not mean that women are not allowed to teach or stand in the church if God has called her and she has the Word of God, the gift of the Holy Spirit and the vision of God. After the fall of man in the garden of Eden we can read the following: “20 And Adam called his wife’s name Eve; because she was the mother of all living.” (Genesis 3:20 KJV) Adam called his wife “Eve”, which means life, “the mother of all living”, that means man complied with the measures of God, that he agreed that his wife will go through the painful pregnancies and deliveries, “16 Unto the woman he said, I will greatly multiply thy sorrow and thy conception; in sorrow thou shalt bring forth children; and thy desire shall be to thy husband, and he shall rule over thee.” (Genesis 3:16 KJV) The Scripture tells us that women will be saved through child bearing: “15 Notwithstanding she shall be saved in childbearing, if they continue in faith and charity and holiness with sobriety.” (1 Timothy 2:15 KJV) * The explanation that women will be saved in child bearing is because after the fall of man pregnancies and deliveries was the way to receive the Messiah who will be born from the woman. Also from the pregnancies and after deliveries woman need to care, nurture and disciple and discipline her children and raise them up as Godly children who live for God and fight against Satan and its demons. * Women who live in faith, holiness, appropriateness, and endowed with the gift of God to serve as spiritual mother to her children and young believers are commendable in their service.

B. Paul did commend women who served, stood and said something in the church meetings as they were called by God to speak:

1. “5 But every woman that prayeth or prophesieth with her head uncovered dishonoureth her head: for that is even all one as if she were shaven. 13 Judge in yourselves: is it comely that a woman pray unto God uncovered?” (1 Corinthians 11:5, 13 KJV) So Paul is approving of women praying or prophesying in the church. To prophesy means to speak the Word of God, to declare the will of God and to speak what is next to come in the future. But Paul is also implying that every woman who prays and prophesies should have her head covered with her long hair.

2. “I commend unto you Phebe our sister, which is a servant of the church which is at Cenchrea: 2 That ye receive her in the Lord, as becometh saints, and that ye assist her in whatsoever business she hath need of you: for she hath been a succourer of many, and of myself also.” (Romans 16:1-2 KJV) Phoebe was the woman who served at the church in Cenchrea and Paul had commended her ministry and requested the brethren to support her.

C. The Bible speaks about women who prophesy, see visions and filled with the Holy Spirit to serve God:

1. “8 And the next day we that were of Paul's company departed, and came unto Caesarea: and we entered into the house of Philip the evangelist, which was one of the seven; and abode with him. 9 And the same man had four daughters, virgins, which did prophesy.” (Acts 21:8-9 KJV) God has given to the four daughters of Philip the gift of prophecy to declare God's Word and God's will to His people, the church.

2. “28 And it shall come to pass afterward, that I will pour out my spirit upon all flesh; and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, your old men shall dream dreams, your young men shall see visions: 29 And also upon the servants and upon the handmaids in those days will I pour out my spirit.” (Joel 2:28-29 KJV) So as God has promised to pour out His Spirit on both men and women in order to serve Him, we as church should allow women to help us in God's service.

My Dear and Beloved: God declared that He will pour out His Spirit on our sons and daughters, on men and women, males and females. God did not discriminate and God did not differentiate. God has no favoritism. Jesus Christ died on the cross for both men and women. He took all our sins and whoever believes on Him has freedom from death and gains eternal life. Men and women has the freedom by the blood of Jesus, for **“28 There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither bond nor free, there is neither male nor female: for ye are all one in Christ Jesus.” (Galatians 3:28 KJV)** True that the woman was created after Adam but had sinned first, **“13 For Adam was first formed, then Eve. 14 And Adam was not deceived, but the woman being deceived was in the transgression.” (1 Timothy 2:13-14 KJV)**, and true that woman was created from man and for man but the man also is of the woman, **“8 For the man is not of the woman: but the woman of the man. 9 Neither was the man created for the woman; but the woman for the man. 10 For this cause ought the woman to have power on her head because of the angels. 11 Nevertheless neither is the man without the woman, neither the woman without the man, in the Lord. 12 For as the woman is of the man, even so is the man also by the woman; but all things of God.” (1 Corinthians 11:8-12)**

But after this review there is nothing in the Scripture prohibits the woman from standing and preaching in the church. If God has chosen women and men, if God has freed women as well as men, if God has poured out His Spirit on men, women, and children; If Jesus had died for all then who am I or you to put regulations and rules for the movement of God's Spirit? And tell me, **“33 Who shall lay any thing to the charge of God's elect? It is God that justifieth.” (Romans 8:33 KJV)**

The Holy Scriptures clearly speaks about women as servants of God. Therefore let us recognize the women whom God has called to do the ministry in the church with us; to stand and speak, to pray, preach and prophesy as the Holy Spirit enables them to help us edify His people, the Church of God.

If you are a man then accept women to stand and preach and do the work of God and if you are woman then be strong and don't be intimidated, but accept the calling of God in your life to stand and preach in God's church.

Let us pray ...

My Prayer: Father God I come before you in the name of Jesus, who died on the cross for my sins and rose from death to give me eternal life. Lord thank you for your Word that clarified to me the value of the women in your church and ministry. Lord thank you that you called them to stand and preach, to teach and to prophecy. Lord thank you for all corrections and the admonishments that I received from the Scriptures in this message.

Come now to God and confess and renounce all your sins and commit yourself to serve Him. Confess and renounce your pride, lack of humility, your anger, jealousy, boasting, selfishness, and self-righteousness. Confess and renounce your bad stewardship, wasting your resources, and your non willingness to serve God according to His Word and suffer for Him. Confess and renounce your yoke with non believers, with friends and in bondage with the Media, News and games. Lord forgive me, I repent from the following sins

Lord I commit myself to apply the principles that I learned today in this message; to accept women you called to stand and to preach in the church as you had given them the gifts of the Holy Spirit. Lord I commit myself to do my responsibilities well in the ministry that you entrusted to me in the church that you placed me in. Lord, I commit myself to evangelize reaching new people and preaching the gospel and your Word to them.

Lord thank you for my Brothers and Sisters who had repented and committed their lives to serve you according to your will and the Word we received in this message. Lord protect them and provide for them so they will continue to serve you. Lord I pray for the women to use them mightily in their families to raise up Godly generation and to preach your Word to the lost and to help in the ministries of the church according to their gifts and your calling to them.

Lord bless us as your church as we commit ourselves to implement all the teaching that we received in this message. Lord we pray for revival in our midst that people will respond to your Word and come back to you and serve you wholeheartedly. Lord refills us once again with the Holy Spirit and give us the spiritual gifts so that we continue to serve you. Lord lead us to evangelize, making new disciples, train new workers and plant more Bible studies and congregations for the church. Lord fulfill the vision of the church, 'Multiplication in peace with implementing the whole will of God'. Lord bless us, enlarge our territory, let you hand be with us and free us from harm so that we will not feel pain. May the grace of the Lord Jesus and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with us all in Jesus name, Amen.

The Duties of the Priest Part 18. Women Standing in the Church. Joel 2:28-29. Genesis 1:26-27. Genesis 2:8, 15-18, 20-24. Judges 4:4-10. Luke 1:35-38. Luke 24:1-12. Ephesians 6:1-3. 1 Corinthians 11:3, 5, 8-13. 1 Corinthians 14:34-35. 1 Timothy 2:11-15. Genesis 3:20, 16. Romans 16:1-2. Acts 21:8-9. Galatians 3:28. Romans 8:33.

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