

Women of The Bible
Paul and the Role of Women
1 Corinthians 14: 34-35 and 1 Timothy 2:11-15

Should Women be Allowed to Speak in Church?

1 Corinthians 14:34-35

- 1 Corinthians 11:5 – A woman should pray or prophesize in worship with a head covering.
- The topic before and after this verse deals with orderly worship.
- Is the issue the fact that women in the church are becoming a distraction during the worship service?
- Or, is it that Women are giving authoritative interpretation to prophesy?

Should Women be Allowed to Teach a Man?

1 Timothy 2:11-15

- The Local Church is made up of House Churches. (the role of elders, overseers, or bishop)
- The Wealthy Women in Ephesus
- This scripture actually elevates the role of woman in their current culture.

Do Bible teachers in the church today have authority over the students in the class?

Two Main Concerns from Paul

- **Marriage** – Paul had a concern that if a woman had authority over other men in the church, and her husband, it would create problems in their marriage.
- **Motherhood** – Paul had a concern that if a Woman was the teacher over the house church, it would keep her from being a good mother.

Two Possible Interpretations:

1. A woman is allowed to do a wide range of ministries, but not allowed to be a teacher who has authority over a man. Most Bible scholars would state that in the modern church, that would mean that a woman would not be allowed to be a senior Pastor.
2. That Paul was dealing with a specific issue in his culture that should not be seen as a universal command for all churches. Some would say that a Pastor is not seen as having authority over the congregation today as in the 1st century. And,

if a woman is able to be a Pastor and it does not affect her ability to be a wife and mother, then it is okay.

Conclusions:

- Calling a pastor is a local church decision and we should be cautious to throw stones at churches that disagree with our interpretation of scripture.
- Women throughout scripture have been given many gifts that have put them in different leadership roles within the nation of Israel and the early church.
- Paul seemed concerned about causing divisions within the church that would keep the church from being able to reach others for Christ.
- Relationships within the family and within the church is more important than proving that you are right.