

Week 4: Women and the Church

1. Topic Overview

- 1) Key Question: What does the Bible say about the role of women in the church?
 - 2) Main Concerns: Women's spiritual gifts, offices, the command for silence, and Paul's view on women
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2. The Role of Women in the New Testament

- 1) Women in the Ministry of Jesus
 - 2) Mary, Martha, Mary Magdalene, and others as models of devotion and discipleship
 - 3) Chosen as the first witnesses of the resurrection (John 20:1–18)
 - 4) Acts and the Early Church
 - 5) Priscilla: taught Apollos alongside Aquila (Acts 18:26)
 - 6) Philip's four daughters: prophetesses (Acts 21:9)
 - 7) Lydia: supporter and host of the first Philippian church (Acts 16:14–15)
 - 8) Paul's Female Co-workers
Romans 16: Phoebe (deaconess), Priscilla, Julia, Tryphena, etc.
Paul referred to them as "co-workers" and "honorable laborers"
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3. Pauline Epistles and the Command for Silence

- 1) Corinthians 14:34–35; Timothy 2:11–12
 - 2) "Women should remain silent in the churches" — highly debated texts
 - 3) Divided views: cultural context vs. universal principle
 - 4) Interpretive Approaches
 - 5) Cultural Contextualism: Instruction tied to specific issues in Corinth/Ephesus
 - 6) Universal Normative View: Based on creation order (Genesis 2–3)
 - 7) Gift-Oriented Approach: Roles determined by the Spirit's calling and gifting
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4. Pauline Theological Evaluation

- 1) Paul was not an oppressor of women, but affirmed equality in Christ (Gal. 3:28)

- 2) Emphasized equal value with differentiated roles: order, not inferiority
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5. Application to the Modern Church

- 1) Encourage both men and women to use their gifts
 - 2) Reconsider cultural misunderstandings that lead to exclusion
 - 3) Uphold both biblical order and communal edification
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6. Key Scriptures

- 1) Galatians 3:28 — “There is neither Jew nor Greek... male nor female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus.”
 - 2) Romans 16 — Names and commendations of Paul’s female coworkers
 - 3) 1 Corinthians 14:34–35 / 1 Timothy 2:11–12 — The silence passages
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