

The Gospel Unashamed

"From the cowardice that shrinks from new truth, from the laziness that is content with half-truths, from the arrogance that thinks it knows all truth, O, God of Truth, deliver us."

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~ All articles are written by Terry Carter unless otherwise stated ~

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Can Women Preach?

There are many hot topics in the Church today that some preachers try to stay away from.

For example... politics, abortion, homosexuality, transgender, bisexual, pansexual, animal rights, and divorce.

These are the very things preachers need to be preaching on in the pulpits of America. We don't have time to because we are so busy preaching about seven ways to have a better marriage, seven ways to get over anger, or seven ways to better your lawn.

I would like to look at another hot topic within the Church today that is gaining ground. The topic is... "Can a Woman be a Preacher?" As we often ask it, "Can a Woman Preach?" The short answer is "yes", the long answer is "no". Stay with me!

We start out with the wrong question. "Can a woman preach?"

Yes, they have the ability to preach because they know how to think and speak. Don't believe me; ask my mom when I was growing up. She was preaching to me all the time; clean your room, do your homework, etc.

Joking! So, in that context a woman can preach.

To really answer the question we should ask, "Should a woman preach or Should a woman be a preacher?" Let's see what the Bible says about this hot topic!

Our text is **1 Timothy 2:1-8**. Let's look at it together!

"1 First of all, then, I urge that entreaties and prayers, petitions and thanksgivings, be made on behalf of all **men**, 2 for kings and all who are in authority, in order that we may lead a tranquil and quiet life in all godliness and dignity. 3 This is good and acceptable in the sight of God our Savior, 4 who desires all **men** to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth. 5 For there is one God, and one mediator also between God and **men**, the **man** Christ Jesus, 6 who gave Himself as a ransom for all, the testimony borne at the proper time. 7 And for this I was appointed a preacher and an apostle (I am telling the truth, I am not lying) as a teacher of the Gentiles in faith and truth. 8 Therefore I want the **men** in every place to pray, lifting up holy hands, without wrath and dissension."

Notice in this section of our text the word "men" is used four times and the word "man" is used once referring to Christ Jesus.

In **verses 1, 4, and 5**, the word for "men" in the Greek is the word "*anthropos*". It means "human kind," "human being," "man or woman."

Christian men and women are to pray to the Lord. The Lord wants men and women to be saved because He died for all. Jesus is the mediator or 'go between', between Christian men / Christian women and God the Father. So, salvation, prayer, and our relationship are for men and women which is "*anthropos*".

There are roles in life and in the Church for men and women. The word for "men" changes in **verse 8**. "Therefore, I want the **men** in every place to pray, lifting up holy hands, without wrath and dissension."

This word for "men" here is the Greek word "*aner*". It is used in **verse 8** and **12**. It means in reference to sex (gender), of a male, or of a husband. It is a man. It is the men of the Church who are to be doing the praying and leading in the Church, not the women.

Notice the next section of our text...it goes deeper.

"9 Likewise, I want **women** to adorn themselves with proper clothing, modestly and discreetly, not with braided hair and gold or pearls or costly garments; 10 but rather by means of good works, as befits **women** making a claim to godliness. 11 Let a **woman** quietly receive instruction with entire submissiveness. 12 But I do not allow a **woman** to teach or exercise authority over a **man**, but to remain quiet. 13 For it was Adam who was first created, and then Eve. 14 And it was not Adam who was deceived but

the **woman** being quite deceived fell into transgression. 15 But **women** shall be preserved through the bearing of children if they continue in faith and love and sanctity with self-restraint."

The word for "women" or "woman" is used six times in this part of the text.

The Greek word for "woman" is the word "*gune*." Try calling your wife that sometime and see what happens!

- ✗ She is to dress modestly.
- ✗ She is to have good works.
- ✗ We know from **Titus 2** that a Christian woman should teach other Christian women as well as the children.
- ✗ She is not to teach (instruct) or exercise authority over a Christian man.
- ✗ You can also look at **1 Corinthians 14:34ff**.
- ✗ Christian men are to do the preaching, teaching, and public prayers within the Church.

So should a woman preach, or be a preacher?

No! If a Christian woman shouldn't even have public prayers in the Church service, she shouldn't preach according to the New Testament.

I know what some are going to say.

- ✗ This is outdated!
- ✗ This changed after the cross!
- ✗ This has to do with the culture of Paul's time.

I would say you're wrong. Look at the context!

The example Paul gives to men and women's roles is found in **verse 13**. "For it was Adam who was first created, and then Eve."

The text Paul goes back to is **Genesis Chapters 1 and 2**. This text is not out of date, but up to date. This did not change after the cross because Paul wrote this after the

cross. This does not deal with Paul's culture because the example in **verse 13** predates culture.

In **Genesis 1** it shows that men and women are ontologically the same. We are the same in worth, value, because we are made in the image of God.

In **Genesis 2** it shows that men and women are functionally diverse. We were created to have different roles. Just a side note, men and women are biologically and psychologically different. There is a physical difference between a boy and a girl! Our brains are wired differently, as well.

This is God's standard for mankind and within the Church.

- ✗ Men were created to be the leaders and the head.
- ✗ Women were created to be the supporters and help mates to the man.

This does not tear down women but lifts them up. The man can never be the man he should be without the woman.

We are all equal in the eyes of God (same in value or worth), men and women alike. God has created men and women differently with different roles.

If there were ever a time that the Church and the world needs Christian women, that time is now!!!

We need older Christian women teaching the younger women how to be wives, mothers, and examples.

We need younger Christian women that put their husbands, children, and homes before themselves.

We need Christian women who teach the children how to sit in Church services; to be a part of the Church, not just playing while they are there. (I'm not saying there isn't a place for Youth programs, Jr. Church, fun, etc.)

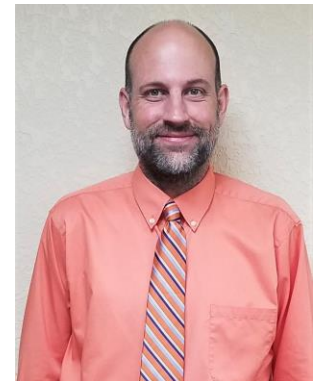
Christian women are helpers and help mates and if there was ever a time the Church needed help, that time is now!

"The hand that rocks the cradle is the hand that rules the world."

There is a lot of truth to that. As Christian men, we can never be the men God has called us to be without Christian women. Women can make us or break us!

Preachers want to stay away from these hot topics, but they need to be preached so that we can help the Church and our communities. For example... politics, abortion, homosexuality, transgender, bisexual, pansexual, animal rights, and divorce.

Genesis Chapters 1 and 2 will take care of every one of these hot topics including the question, "Should women preach?"



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