

The Godly Woman (Part 1)

I All our beliefs and practices are based on the Bible.

A. We don't base our beliefs on:

Culture

Romans 12:2 – Do not be conformed to this age, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, so that you may discern what is the good, pleasing, and perfect will of God. (CSB)

Tradition

Colossians 2:8 – Be careful that no one takes you captive through philosophy and empty deceit based on human tradition, based on the elements of the world, rather than Christ. (CSB)

II. The creation order and the curse of the fall

A. Both male and female were created in God's image.

B. Man was created first and woman created from the man.

C. The curse changed everything.

Genesis 3:16-19 – ¹⁶He said to the woman: I will intensify your labor pains; you will bear children with painful effort. Your desire will be for your husband, yet he will rule over you. ¹⁷And he said to the man, "Because you listened to your wife and ate from the tree about which I commanded you, 'Do not eat from it': The ground is cursed because of you. You will eat from it by means of painful labor all the days of your life. ¹⁸It will produce thorns and thistles for you, and you will eat the plants of the field. ¹⁹You will eat bread by the sweat of your brow until you return to the ground, since you were taken from it. For you are dust, and you will return to dust." (CSB)

III. The revolutionary view of women in the New Testament

A. **Jesus** view of women

Luke 8:1-3 – Afterward he was traveling from one town and village to another, preaching and telling the good news of the kingdom of God. The Twelve were with him, 2 and also some women who had been healed of evil spirits and sicknesses: Mary, called Magdalene (seven demons had come out of her); 3 Joanna the wife of Chuza, Herod's steward; Susanna; and many others who were supporting them from their possessions. (CSB)

B. Women **present** at the very launch of the church.

Acts 1:14 – They all were continually united in prayer, along with the women, including Mary the mother of Jesus, and his brothers. (CSB)

C. **Ministry** of women in the early church.

Definition of ministry: Ministry is **servicing** the need of another, because of the work of Jesus on the cross, in the power of the Holy Spirit, for the glory of God.

- Priscilla – Acts 18:2, 18, 19, 26; Romans 16:3; 1 Corinthians 16:19; 2 Timothy 4:19
- Lydia – Acts 16:40
- Nympha – Colossians 4:15
- Chloe – 1 Corinthians 1:11
- Dorcas – Acts 9:36
- Euodia and Syntyche – Philippians 4:2-3
- The women Paul affirmed in Romans 16:1-2, 3, 6, 12
Phoebe, Priscilla, Mary, Tryphena, Tryphose, Persis, Julia

D. Ministry in the early church was determined by **spiritual gifts** not by **gender**.

Acts 2:17-18 – ¹⁷And it will be in the last days, says God, that I will pour out my Spirit on all people; then your sons and your daughters will prophesy, your young men will see visions, and your old men will dream dreams. ¹⁸I will even pour out my Spirit on my servants in those days, both men and women and they will prophesy. (CSB)

1 Timothy 3:10-11 – ¹⁰They must first be tested; and then if there is nothing against them, let them serve as deacons. ¹¹In the same way, the women are to be worthy of respect, not malicious talkers but temperate and trustworthy in everything. (NIV)

E. There is no evidence of women serving as **elders** or as the **senior pastor** in the early church.

Thought for the Week:

At Bethel we believe that women can minister **with** men and women can minister **to** men under the authority of the elders and the senior pastor.

Todd Hitchcock - Bethel Baptist Church April 23, 2017 Message Notes