

God Questions: What does the Bible say about women in ministry?

Hermeneutics: The overall study of the principles and methods of interpreting the Bible.

Exegesis: Comes under the broad science of hermeneutics as the way we interpret scripture. (from the word exit meaning taking out). The systematic process by which we “take out” the meaning the author intended in the original text.

Questions to answer when doing good exegesis:

- Who wrote the text, and who is the intended readership?
- What is the context of the text, i.e. how does it fit in the author's larger thought process, purpose, or argument in the chapter and book where it resides?
- Is the choice of words, wording, or word order significant in this particular passage?
- Why was the text written (e.g. to correct, encourage, or explain, etc.)?
- When was the text written?

Historical-grammatical approach – universal rules using the laws of grammar, the semantics of the words which comprise the scriptures, the history and the culture in which the scripture was written, in order to determine the author’s intended meaning.

We believe the Bible gives men and women an equal opportunity to exercise their God given gifts in all aspects of ministry.

Women in Ministry

I. Genesis 1 and 2- Original Design

- a. From the beginning, male and female were created in the image of God— male and female are needed to get a true sense of the image of God. (Genesis 1: 27)
- b. At creation, both male and female were created in the likeness of God and were BOTH called EQUALLY to rule over the land.

II. Genesis 3- The Fall

- a. It was not until the fall of humanity that the hierarchical relationship between man and woman was established. (Genesis 3:14-16)
- b. Even after the fall, we see that there will be a day when the enemy's head is crushed and a new order will be established. (Genesis 3:15).

III. Jesus and Women

- a. Jesus came back to reverse the curse of the fall.
- b. Women in Jewish culture in the days before, during, and after Jesus were considered second-class citizens in every way.
- c. Jesus did not consider women to be second-class citizens. (John 4:4-42, Luke 7:36-50, Luke 10:38-42)

IV. New Creation Ideal

- a. Jesus was not the only person in the New Testament that affirmed equality for women in ministry (Acts 2:17-21, Galatians 3:26-29).
- b. The New Creation is the redeeming act by the death and resurrection of Jesus with the goal of restoring creation back to a Genesis ideal.

V. Women in Ministry in the New Testament

- a. Arguing that women are not allowed to be in ministry would be in direct violation of the teachings of Paul as he is seen to endorse women who hold ministry offices in the church. (Romans 16, Acts 18:26, 1 Corinthians 11:5).

VI. The Problem Texts (1 Corinthians 11 and 14 and 1 Timothy 2)

- a. Paul's writings regarding women in ministry were not directives that were meant to be held throughout the course of history, but were directives for a certain culture at a certain time.
- b. God is always more concerned with the big picture of the expansion of the Gospel.
- c. Just as we do not ask women to wear head coverings in the church, we would not prevent women from any other role in the church.

Resources for further study-

Discovering Biblical Equality by Pierce, Groothuis, and Fee

Paul, Women, and Wives by Craig S. Keener

Women's Service in the Church: The Biblical Basis by N.T. Wright

http://ntwrightpage.com/Wright_Women_Service_Church.htm