

Women in the Church of Our Lord

A Study of the role of women in the New Testament Church.

What do the Scriptures say about women pastors, women priests, woman deacons, women bishops? What is the role of woman in the church today? An answer from the Scriptures which you can use to bring others to a knowledge of the word of God.

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Many churches today have women pastors, bishops, preachers and priests. Is the difference merely one of culture or heritage? Why is it that some churches refuse to allow a woman to serve as a preacher, priest or bishop? Was Paul a hater of women? Did the New Testament church discriminate against women? We want to examine what the Scriptures say about women pastors, women priests, woman deacons, and women bishops. We want to examine the role of woman in the church today? I am sure that you want to follow God's will on this matter or you wouldn't have started this course. Remember, as you search the Scriptures, do so with a view toward what God wants and not what you want!

In I Cor 12-14, Paul as guided by the Holy Spirit, defines the use of miraculous gifts and the place in the church at Corinth. If you would like to study this question more deeply, please ask for the author's course on the Work of the Holy Spirit.

1. Did Paul write his own thoughts or the thoughts of God? _____

If anyone thinks he is a prophet or spiritual, let him recognize that the things which I _____ to you are the _____ commandment. (1 Cor 14:37 NAS)

2. Did Paul ask the Corinthian Christians to follow him or God? _____

Be ye followers of me, even as I also am of Christ. (1 Cor 11:1 KJV)

3. If Paul writes about something and it is included in the Scriptures, is it the word of God? _____

*and account that the longsuffering of our Lord is salvation-- as also our beloved brother Paul, according to the **wisdom given to him**, has written to you, as also in all his epistles, speaking in them of these things, in which are some things hard to understand, which untaught and unstable people twist to their own destruction, as they do also the rest of the Scriptures. (2 Pet 3:15-16 NKJ)*

4. If Peter says that Paul's epistles can be twisted as the "rest of the Scriptures" does that mean that Paul's epistles are "Scripture?" _____

5. What will happen to those who twist the Scriptures? _____

6. What was Paul speaking about in I Cor 14? _____

*If therefore the **whole church should assemble** together and all **speak in tongues**, and ungifted men or unbelievers enter, will they not say that you are mad? **But if all prophesy**, and an unbeliever or an ungifted man enters, he is convicted by all, he is called to account by all; (1 Cor 14:23-24 NAS)*

7. Are tongues to be used in the presence of those who are unbelievers or those who do not understand the tongue? _____

*So if the whole church comes together and everyone speaks in tongues, and **some who do not understand or some unbelievers** come in, will they not say that you are out of your mind? (1 Cor 14:23 NIV)*

8. Could the prophets control themselves when prophesying? _____

For you can all prophesy in turn so that everyone may be instructed and encouraged. The spirits of prophets are subject to the control of prophets. (1 Cor 14:31-32 NIV)

9. Should there be any disorder or confusion in the church of the Lord? _____

For God is not the author of confusion, but of peace, as in all churches of the saints. (1 Cor 14:33 KJV)

Learning a little of the Greek language will be of some help in answering the next questions. The same Greek word is used for "man" or "husband" and that word is "aner". Also the same Greek word is used for "woman" or "wife" and that word is "gune". Thus, when you read your Bible you depend on the translator to correctly decide whether the Holy Spirit was talking to "women" or to "wives". We need to find out whether the next few verses in I Corinthians refers to "women" or to "wives", and if to "wives" then whose wives would they be?

*Let the women keep silent in the churches; for they are not permitted to speak, but let them subject themselves, just as the Law also says. And if they desire to learn anything, **let them ask their own husbands at home**; for it is improper for a woman to speak in*

church. (1 Cor 14:34-35 NAS)

10. How were these women to learn anything? _____

11. Do all women who are members of the church have a husband at home? _____

*Are you bound to a wife? Do not seek to be released. Are you released from a wife? Do not seek a wife. But if you should marry, you have not sinned; and **if a virgin should marry, she has not sinned.** Yet such will have trouble in this life, and I am trying to spare you. (1 Cor 7:27-28 NAS)*

12. If not all women who are members of the church have a husband, is Paul speaking of them here? _____

13. If all of the women in I Cor 14:34-35 have husbands, who would their husbands be? _____

And let two or three prophets speak, and let the others pass judgment. But if a revelation is made to another who is seated, let the first keep silent. For you can all prophesy one by one, so that all may learn and all may be exhorted; and the spirits of prophets are subject to prophets; (1 Cor 14:29-32 NAS)

We must always remember context (setting or conditions) when we look at a verse. In this case Paul was speaking to the prophets. Although he does not say the prophets are all men or that the women are the wives of the prophets, **we conclude that since he was talking to the prophets that the women he spoke to were the prophets wives.** Let us look further at what the Old Testament and the Law of Moses had to say about the subjection of women.

15. What did God tell Eve concerning women and who should rule over them? _____

Unto the woman he said, I will greatly multiply thy sorrow and thy conception; in sorrow thou shalt bring forth children; and thy desire shall be to thy husband, and he shall rule over thee. (Gen 3:16 KJV)

16. What does the Law say concerning the right of an unmarried woman to make a contract?

"Also if a woman makes a vow to the LORD, and binds herself by an obligation in her father's house in her youth, and her father hears her vow and her obligation by which she has bound herself, and her father says nothing to her, then all her vows shall stand, and every obligation by which she has bound herself shall stand. "But if her father should forbid her on the day he hears of it, none of her vows or her obligations by which she has bound herself shall stand; and the LORD will forgive her because her father had forbidden her. (Num 30:3-5 NAS)

17. What does the Law say concerning the right of an widow or divorced woman to make a

contract? _____

"But the vow of a widow or of a divorced woman, everything by which she has bound herself, shall stand against her. (Num 30:9 NAS)

18. What does the Law say concerning the right of an wife to make a contract? _____

"However, if she vowed in her husband's house, or bound herself by an obligation with an oath, and her husband heard it, but said nothing to her and did not forbid her, then all her vows shall stand, and every obligation by which she bound herself shall stand. "But if her husband indeed annuls them on the day he hears them, then whatever proceeds out of her lips concerning her vows or concerning the obligation of herself, shall not stand; her husband has annulled them, and the LORD will forgive her. (Num 30:10-12 NAS)

This is all the Law of Moses states in regard to a woman subjecting herself. These verse clearly show that the wife is to be subject to her husband and not to embarrass him as he speaks as a prophet. The New Testament also teaches that the wife is to have a proper respect for her husband.

19. In the Christian home, how is the wife to view her husband? _____

Wives, be subject to your own husbands, as to the Lord. For the husband is the head of the wife, as Christ also is the head of the church, He Himself being the Savior of the body. (Eph 5:22-23 NAS)

20. In the Christian home, how is the husband to treat his wife? _____

Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ also loved the church and gave Himself up for her; ... So husbands ought also to love their own wives as their own bodies. He who loves his own wife loves himself; for no one ever hated his own flesh, but nourishes and cherishes it, just as Christ also does the church, (Eph 5:25, 28-29 NAS)

21. Were women ever allowed to speak in the presence assembly under the Law of Moses? _____

Then the daughters of Zelophehad, the son of Hopher, the son of Gilead, the son of Machir, the son of Manasseh, of the families of Manasseh the son of Joseph, came near; and these are the names of his daughters: Mahlah, Noah and Hoglah and Milcah and Tirzah. And they stood before Moses and before Eleazar the priest and before the leaders and all the congregation, at the doorway of the tent of meeting, saying, "Our father died in the wilderness, yet he was not among the company of those who gathered themselves together against the LORD in the company of Korah; but he died in his own sin, and he had no sons. "Why should the name of our father be withdrawn from among his family because he had no son? Give us a possession among our father's brothers." (Num 27:1-4 NAS)

As we study the practice under the Law, we must determine what role women played and was their silence absolute under the Law of Moses?

22. What did Deborah do under the Law of Moses? _____

Now Deborah, a prophetess, the wife of Lappidoth, was judging Israel at that time. And she used to sit under the palm tree of Deborah between Ramah and Bethel in the hill country of Ephraim; and the sons of Israel came up to her for judgment. (Judg 4:4-5 NAS)

23. What did Huldah do under the Law of Moses? _____

So Hilkiah the priest, Ahikam, Achbor, Shaphan, and Asaiah went to Huldah the prophetess, the wife of Shallum the son of Tikvah, the son of Harhas, keeper of the wardrobe (now she lived in Jerusalem in the Second Quarter); and they spoke to her. (II Ki 22:14 NAS)

24. What did Anna do under the Law of Moses? _____

And there was a prophetess, Anna the daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Asher. She was advanced in years, having lived with a husband seven years after her marriage, and then as a widow to the age of eighty-four. And she never left the temple, serving night and day with fastings and prayers. (Luke 2:36-37 NAS)

25. Under the Law, what role did women play and was their silence absolute? _____

26. What was foretold that daughters would do in the New Testament? _____

'And it shall be in the last days,' God says, 'That I will pour forth of My Spirit upon all mankind; and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, and your young men shall see visions, and your old men shall dream dreams; (Acts 2:17 NAS)

27. What did their daughters would do in the New Testament? _____

And on the next day we departed and came to Caesarea; and entering the house of Philip the evangelist, who was one of the seven, we stayed with him. Now this man had four virgin daughters who were prophetesses. (Acts 21:8-9 NAS)

Let us review what we have learned thus far. In I Cor 14, Paul speaks concerning spiritual gifts. He speaks the “word of the Lord” and it must be obeyed. The prophets who were speaking at Corinth must have been men and their wives were forbidden to question them in the church. The wives who had questions were to be silent. The Greek word for “silent” here is from “sigao” which means to 1) to keep silence, to hold one's peace; or 2) to be kept in silence, to be concealed. In other words they were not to say anything about their husband's prophecies. Today's woman does not like to be restricted in this manner. Often we find married women

speaking in the church as though they and their husbands could be co-pastors. We find that this is not so in this case. During our next study, we will take up the general case of women in the church as discussed by Paul in I Tim 2:11-12. We will find there that the woman's attitude is to be one of quietness and that she may not bring a didactic discourse (one which lectures) in the church. We urge you to complete this study and be prepared as we continue to find out what God wants us to do concerning women pastors, teachers and preachers.

A Woman's Work in the Church

May a Woman be a Pastor?

We want to begin this lesson by finding out what the word Pastor really means. We want to find out who were Pastors in the New Testament. And we want to find out what the qualifications of Pastors in the New Testament were.

28. What did God promise he would give his people under the new Covenant?

*'Return, O faithless sons,' declares the LORD; 'For I am a master to you, and I will take you one from a city and two from a family, and I will bring you to Zion.' "Then I will give you **shepherds** after My own heart, who will **feed you on knowledge and understanding**. (Jer 3:14-15 NAS)*

29. Where is the word pastor used in the New Testament? _____

*It was he who gave some to be apostles, some to be prophets, some to be evangelists, and some to be **pastors** and teachers, to prepare God's people for works of service, so that the **body of Christ may be built up** until we all reach unity in the faith and in the knowledge of the Son of God and become mature, attaining to the whole measure of the fullness of Christ. (Eph 4:11-13 NIV)*

30. What are the pastors to do? _____

*It was he who gave some to be apostles, some to be prophets, some to be evangelists, and some to be **pastors** and teachers, to prepare God's people for works of service. (Eph 4:11 NIV)*

31. What is the body of Christ? _____

*And He put all things in subjection under His feet, and gave Him as head over all things to the **church**, which is **His body**, the fulness of Him who fills all in all. (Eph 1:22-23 NAS)*

*For the husband is the head of the wife, as **Christ also is the head of the church**, He Himself being the **Savior of the body**. (Eph 5:23 NAS)*

The Greek word for pastor is “poimen” which is used in Eph 4:11 as a noun. The noun means “a herdsman, especially a shepherd” and is used of Christ as the “chief shepherd”. Thus in the New Testament this word is translated as shepherd or pastor. The Greek scholar, Henry Thayer, tells us that the tasks of a Near Eastern shepherd were: to watch for enemies trying to attack the sheep; to defend the sheep from attackers; to heal the wounded and sick sheep; to find and save lost or trapped sheep; to love them, sharing their lives and so earning their trust. When the word is used as a verb, it means to feed or to tend.

32. Who was told to feed (shepherd) the flock of God? _____

*Take heed therefore unto yourselves, and to all the flock, over the which the Holy Ghost hath made you **overseers**, to **feed the church** of God, which he hath purchased with his own blood.*

*For you were continually straying like sheep, but now you have returned to the Shepherd and **Guardian** of your souls. (1 Pet 2:25 NAS)*

*For you were like sheep going astray, but now you have returned to the Shepherd and **Overseer** of your souls. (1 Pet 2:25 NIV)*

We can see from the Greek words where a number of religious groups got their names. From the Greek “episkopos” comes the Episcopal church based on their manner of government. From the Greek “presbuteros” we can see the name Presbyterian, again based on their manner of government. From the Greek word “poimen” which is translated as pastor or shepherd, we can see where the word “pasture”, meaning a place where sheep feed, comes from.

38. What are the seven English words that we have found that describe the group seen in Acts 20:28 (and in which 3 of these terms are used)?

Greek	presbuteros	poimen	episkopos
	_____	_____	_____
	_____	_____	_____

We have learned that these words all refer to the same group. Now let’s look at the qualifications given by Paul as he was guided by the Holy Spirit.

39. Why did Paul write Timothy his first letter? _____

***I am writing these things** to you, hoping to come to you before long; but in case I am delayed, I write so that you may know **how one ought to conduct himself in the household of God, which is the church of the living God, the pillar and support of the truth.** (1 Tim 3:14-15 NAS)*

40. What were the qualifications given for in I Tim 3:1? _____

*This is a true saying, If a man desire the **office of a bishop**, he desireth a good work. (1 Tim 3:1 KJV)*

*It is a trustworthy statement: if any man aspires to the **office of overseer**, it is a fine work he desires to do. (1 Tim 3:1 NAS)*

41. Who was to desire this office, men or women? _____

42. Are there any qualifications that would disqualify a woman from being a bishop? _____

*A bishop then **must be** blameless, **the husband of one wife**, vigilant, sober, of good behaviour, given to hospitality, apt to teach; (1 Tim 3:2 KJV)*

We learned in lesson 1 that there are three Greek words that would be important for studying this verse. The first is “gune” which is translated as “woman” or “wife” depending on the context. The second is “aner” which is translated “man” or “husband” depending on the context. The third is “anthropos” which is usually translated “men” but relates to both men and women and would be best thought of as “mankind”. We need to look at I Tim 3:2 to see what words are used here. The actual

Greek words come from “aner” and “gune”, thus the bishop must be the man of one woman.

43. Can a woman be the “man of one woman”? _____

44. Can a woman meet the qualifications given by the apostle Paul for a bishop?

*A bishop then **must be** blameless, **the husband of one wife**, vigilant, sober, of good behaviour, given to hospitality, apt to teach; (1 Tim 3:2 KJV)*

46. What other words describe the bishop?

Greek	presbuteros	poimen	episkopos
	_____	_____	_____
	_____	_____	_____

47. If pastor and bishop both refer to the same persons, may a woman be a pastor?

48. If elder and bishop both refer to the same persons, may a woman be an elder?

49. If shepherd and overseer both refer to the same persons, may a woman be a shepherd?

50. Is a woman ever called a “pastor”, a “shepherd” or a “feeder” of souls in the New Testament?

51. Would there be good and godly men who would not meet the qualifications of the pastor (bishop)?

*A bishop then **must be** blameless, the husband of one wife, vigilant, sober, of good behaviour, given to hospitality, apt to teach; Not given to wine, no striker, not greedy of filthy lucre; but patient, not a brawler, not covetous; One that ruleth well his own house, having his children in subjection with all gravity; (1 Tim 3:2-4 KJV)*

There is no way that any man or woman who has diligently studied the matter will call a woman a pastor. It may have been done previously simply because it hadn't been studied, but now that you know that a woman cannot be a pastor according to God's will, you must disassociate yourself from those that refuse to hear God's word. If you have used this term to describe yourself, please review the qualifications for the pastor given in I Tim 3:1-7 and Tit 1:6-9. Prayerfully consider what you must do to follow God's will and then let no one on this earth distract you from your goal.

A Woman's Work in the Church May a Woman Teach in the Church?

We come to the second passage which limits women and we must once again analyze the context of the passage. The letter of II Timothy was written by Paul to the young evangelist, Timothy, in order for Timothy to know how the church should be arranged.

*I am writing these things to you, hoping to come to you before long; but in case I am delayed, I write so that you may know how one ought to conduct himself **in the household of God, which is the church of the living God, the pillar and support of the truth.** (1 Tim 3:14-15 NAS)*

52. Where did Paul say that the teaching in I Timothy would show us how to conduct ourselves?

53. Who is to lead in prayer in the church? _____

*Therefore I want **the men in every place** to pray, lifting up holy hands, without wrath and dissension. (1 Tim 2:8 NAS)*

54. What kind of life is the man who leads in public prayer to lead? _____

*Therefore I want the men in every place to pray, lifting up **holy hands, without wrath and dissension.** (1 Tim 2:8 NAS)*

55. How are women to be known in the church? _____

*Likewise, I want women to **adorn themselves with proper clothing**, modestly and discreetly, not with braided hair and gold or pearls or costly garments; but rather **by means of good works**, as befits women making a claim to godliness. 1 Tim 2:9-10(NAS)*

We might take an aside to examine a complementary passage in I Peter to see how he says a woman is to dress.

56. Did the Holy Spirit guide Peter to condemn “putting on apparel” (fine clothes) or overdressing such that the woman is known for the clothing she wears rather than the spirit she has?

*Whose adorning let it not be that outward adorning of plaiting the hair, and of wearing of gold, **or of putting on of apparel**; But let it be the hidden man of the heart, in that which is not corruptible, even the **ornament of a meek and quiet spirit**, which is in the sight of God of great price. (1 Pet 3:3-4 KJV)*

*Your beauty should not come from outward adornment, such as braided hair and the wearing of gold jewelry and **fine clothes**. Instead, it should be that of your inner self, **the unfading beauty of a gentle and quiet spirit**, which is of great worth in God's sight. (1 Pet 3:3-4 NIV)*

57. After looking at I Pet 3:3-4, what do you think Paul meant in I Tim 2:9-10 by “proper clothing”?

58. How is a woman to receive instruction? _____

Let the woman learn in silence with all subjection. (1 Tim 2:11 KJV)

Let a woman quietly receive instruction with entire submissiveness. (1 Tim 2:11 NAS)

A woman should learn in quietness and full submission. (1 Tim 2:11 NIV)

From Greek scholars, such as W. E. Vines, we learn that the Greek word for silence used here (hesuchia) does not indicate absolute quiet but a tranquility arising from within. The Greek Scholar Henry Thayer says, “hesuchia” means 1)quietness, a description of the life of one who stays at home doing his own work, and does not officiously meddle with the affairs of others”

59. Could a preacher do the work God requires and not “meddle in the affairs of others”?

60. What did Paul tell Timothy that the preacher was to do? _____

*preach the word; be ready in season and out of season; **reprove, rebuke**, exhort, with great patience and instruction. (2 Tim 4:2 NAS)*

61. Would a preacher have to know what was going on in the affairs of the congregation if he were going to reprove or rebuke the church? _____

As we come to a most important verse in how we are to conduct ourselves in the church, we want to examine all the major versions used by religious people today. This is an important question before us as there are many women teacher, preachers, pastors and priests among the religious world today. If we are to follow God, we must not be led astray by all of the competing doctrines of the world, but we must follow God’s lead. If we find that we are incorrect in the things that we have taught or practiced in the past, we must repent, ask God for forgiveness and then follow His right way! To do anything less, regardless of the cost, is to miss heaven because our worship is vain (Mt 15:9, Mt 7:21).

But I suffer not a woman to teach, nor to usurp authority over the man, but to be in silence. (1 Tim 2:12 KJV)

But I do not allow a woman to teach or exercise authority over a man, but to remain quiet. (1 Tim 2:12 NAS)

I do not permit a woman to teach or to have authority over a man; she must be silent. (1 Tim 2:12 NIV)

And I do not permit a woman to teach or to have authority over a man, but to be in silence. (1 Tim 2:12 NKJ)

There are two ways to look at this passage. We must remember that the original Greek did not contain punctuation and thus it is up to the translators to correctly punctuate the verse. One way is to

separate the verse as the KJV does indicating that 1) a woman may not teach and 2) she may not “usurp authority over the man”.

A second way is as the NAS puts it, indicating that 1) a woman is not to teach over a man or 2) exercise authority over a man.

To find out which of these is true in this passage, let’s harmonize the Scriptures so that we have the complete will of God in this matter.

62. May a woman teach? _____

*Older **women** likewise are to be reverent in their behavior, not malicious gossips, nor enslaved to much wine, **teaching what is good**, (Titus 2:3 NAS)*

63. Did women teach in the New Testament? _____

*and he began to speak out boldly in the synagogue. But when **Priscilla** and Aquila heard him, they took him aside and **explained to him the way of God more accurately**. (Acts 18:26 NAS)*

64. Another passage that teaches us about women teaching refers to men in the sense of “mankind” as we learn from the Greek word used in II Tim 2:2, “anthroopois” which is a derivative of the Greek word “anthropos”. This is the word from which we derive anthropology, the study of mankind. What does this verse tell us about those who teach? _____

*And the things which you have heard from me in the presence of many witnesses, these entrust to **faithful men**, who will be able to teach others also. (2 Tim 2:2 NAS)*

65. Did women teach men in the New Testament? _____

*Now a certain Jew named **Apollos**, an Alexandrian by birth, an eloquent **man**, came to Ephesus; and he was **mighty in the Scriptures**. This man had been instructed in the way of the Lord; and being fervent in spirit, he was speaking and teaching accurately the things concerning Jesus, being acquainted only with the baptism of John; and **he** began to speak out boldly in the synagogue. But when **Priscilla** and Aquila heard him, they took **him** aside and **explained to him the way of God more accurately**. (Acts 18:24-26 NAS)*

66. Did women in the New Testament prophesy? _____

*Now this man had **four virgin daughters** who were **prophetesses**. (Acts 21:9 NAS)*

67. Are women to speak in church? _____

*And do not get drunk with wine, for that is dissipation, but be filled with the Spirit, **speaking to one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody with your heart to the Lord**; (Eph 5:18-19 NAS)*

68. Are women to teach in their singing? _____

*Let the word of Christ richly dwell within you, with all wisdom **teaching and admonishing one another** with psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with thankfulness in your hearts to God. (Col 3:16 NAS)*

Thus, we have learned that women are to teach, that they did teach, that they did teach men and that they did teach men in church. We can only conclude that the punctuation in the KJV (which was put in by uninspired men) is incorrect. Recognizing that the Bible does not contradict itself, this leaves as the only possibility for the way to read I Tim 2:12 is that of the NAS. The NAS indicates that 1) a woman is not to teach over a man or 2) exercise authority over a man.

When we consider what would be meant by a woman may not “teach over a man” we will bring in the manner of her teaching, which is to *be silent*.

69. What did the word “silent” mean in question 43? _____
70. What is to be the manner of the woman’s teaching? _____
71. If a woman teaches in a quiet manner will she lecture a man? _____
72. If a woman lectures a man will she “teach over the man”? _____
73. If a woman lectures from the pulpit will she “teach over the man”? _____
74. If a woman is appointed a spiritual leader, will she “exercise authority over the man”?

75. Does the Scripture say that all men are smarter than all women? _____
76. Was Priscilla more knowledgeable about the Scriptures than Apollos? _____

*and he began to speak out boldly in the synagogue. But when **Priscilla** and Aquila heard him, they took him aside and **explained to him the way of God more accurately.** (Acts 18:26 NAS)*

We have learned that woman may teach men but they must not do so in a dominating fashion. Rather their manner of life is to be one of a quiet spirit. That is something that is not popular in the world today, but are we striving to please men or God? Women are to teach. They are not to direct the singing in the church although they may do so elsewhere. They are not to teach men in the church although they may do so elsewhere. They are not to make the decisions in the church but rather allow the men to lead, even though they may not be as smart or knowledgeable. If the men are not as smart or knowledgeable, the women will take them aside and teach them the way of the Lord more perfectly, but even here it is to be done in a quiet and gentle manner. The spirit filled woman will never be pushing her knowledge or opinions on a man but will quietly lead him with God’s word and thus be his helper.

A Woman's Work in the Church

What are a Woman's Responsibilities in the Church?

77. Does a woman have a responsibility to hunger after God's word?

*And she had a sister called Mary, who moreover was **listening to the Lord's word**, seated at His feet. But Martha was distracted with all her preparations; and she came up to Him, and said, "Lord, do You not care that my sister has left me to do all the serving alone? Then tell her to help me." But the Lord answered and said to her, "Martha, Martha, you are worried and bothered about so many things; but only a few things are necessary, really only one, for **Mary has chosen the good part, which shall not be taken away from her.**" (Luke 10:39-42 NAS)*

78. Do both men and women have the right to come to Christ?

There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free man, there is neither male nor female; for you are all one in Christ Jesus. And if you belong to Christ, then you are Abraham's offspring, heirs according to promise. (Gal 3:28-29 NAS)

79. Did women help Jesus in His preaching? _____

*After this, Jesus traveled about from one town and village to another, proclaiming the good news of the kingdom of God. The Twelve were with him, and also some women who had been cured of evil spirits and diseases: **Mary (called Magdalene)** from whom seven demons had come out; **Joanna** the wife of Cuza, the manager of Herod's household; **Susanna**; and many others. **These women were helping to support them out of their own means.** (Luke 8:1-3 NIV)*

80. Does the fact that some men do not meet the qualifications to be a pastor mean that they are any less in God's sight? _____

namely, if any man be above reproach, the husband of one wife, having children who believe, not accused of dissipation or rebellion. (Titus 1:6 NAS) (Paul was single, I Cor 9:5, at the time he wrote)

81. Who were Euodia and Syntyche? _____

*I urge Euodia and I urge Syntyche to live in harmony in the Lord. Indeed, true comrade, I ask you also to help **these women** who have shared my struggle in the cause of the gospel, together with Clement also, and the rest of my **fellow workers, whose names are in the book of life.** (Phil 4:2-3 NAS)*

82. Who was Phoebe? _____

*I commend to you **our sister Phoebe**, who is a servant of the church which is at Cenchrea; that you receive her in the Lord in a manner worthy of the saints, and that you help her in whatever*

*matter she may have need of you; for **she herself has also been a helper of many, and of myself as well.** (Rom 16:1-2 NAS)*

83. Is a woman to sing in the assembly? _____ (to whom was Colossians written and what are they told to do?)

*to the **saints and faithful brethren in Christ who are at Colossae:** Grace to you and peace from God our Father. (Col 1:2 NAS)*

*Let the word of Christ richly dwell within you, with all wisdom **teaching and admonishing one another with psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing** with thankfulness in your hearts to God. (Col 3:16 NAS)*

84. Is a woman to teach in the assembly? _____

*Let the word of Christ richly dwell within you, with all wisdom **teaching and admonishing one another with psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing** with thankfulness in your hearts to God. (Col 3:16 NAS)*

85. Another passage that teaches us about women teaching refers to men in the sense of “mankind” as we learn from the Greek word used in II Tim 2:2, “anthroopois” which is a derivative of the Greek word “anthropos”. This is the word from which we derive anthropology, the study of mankind. What does this verse tell us about those who teach? _____

*And the things which you have heard from me in the presence of many witnesses, these entrust to **faithful men, who will be able to teach others also.** (2 Tim 2:2 NAS)*

86. Did women teach men in the New Testament? _____

*Now a certain Jew named **Apollos**, an Alexandrian by birth, an eloquent **man**, came to Ephesus; and he was **mighty in the Scriptures.** This man had been instructed in the way of the Lord; and being fervent in spirit, he was speaking and teaching accurately the things concerning Jesus, being acquainted only with the baptism of John; and **he** began to speak out boldly in the synagogue. But when **Priscilla** and Aquila heard him, they took **him** aside and **explained to him the way of God more accurately.** (Acts 18:24-26 NAS)*

87. Did women in the New Testament prophesy? _____

*Now this man had **four virgin daughters** who were **prophetesses.** (Acts 21:9 NAS)*

88. Is a woman to give for the Lord’s work? _____

*After this, Jesus traveled about from one town and village to another, proclaiming the good news of the kingdom of God. The Twelve were with him, and also some women who had been cured of evil spirits and diseases: **Mary (called Magdalene)** from whom seven demons had come out; **Joanna** the wife of Cuza, the manager of Herod’s household; **Susanna**; and many others. **These women were helping to support them out of their own means.** (Luke 8:1-3 NIV)*

*I urge Euodia and I urge Syntyche to live in harmony in the Lord. Indeed, true comrade, I ask you also to help **these women** who have shared my struggle in the cause of the gospel, together with Clement also, and the rest of my **fellow workers, whose names are in the book of life.** ... And you yourselves also know, Philippians, that at the first preaching of the gospel, after I departed from Macedonia, no church shared with me in the matter of giving and receiving but you alone; (Phil 4:2-3, 15 NAS)*

89. Is a woman to make a prayer her own by saying "Amen" if she agrees with the prayer? _____

*Otherwise if you bless in the spirit only, how **will the one** who fills the place of the ungifted **say the "Amen" at your giving of thanks,** since he does not know what you are saying? (1 Cor 14:16 NAS)*

There are five things that we do in the assembly on the Lord's day, the first day of the week. This assembly is specifically for the observance of the Lord's Supper as a memorial and proclamation

For as often as you eat this bread and drink the cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until He comes. (1 Cor 11:26 NAS)

We are also to:

(1) read and preach the Bible

And they were continually devoting themselves to the apostles' teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer. (Acts 2:42 NAS)

And on the first day of the week, when we were gathered together to break bread, Paul began talking to them, intending to depart the next day, and he prolonged his message until midnight. (Acts 20:7 NAS)

(2) contribute money to the Lord's work

And in the proportion that any of the disciples had means, each of them determined to send a contribution for the relief of the brethren living in Judea. (Acts 11:29 NAS)

And you yourselves also know, Philippians, that at the first preaching of the gospel, after I departed from Macedonia, no church shared with me in the matter of giving and receiving but you alone; for even in Thessalonica you sent a gift more than once for my needs. (Phil 4:15-16 NAS)

(3) praying

*Therefore I want the men in every place **to pray**, lifting up holy hands, without wrath and dissension. (1 Tim 2:8 NAS)*

*I am writing these things to you, hoping to come to you before long; but in case I am delayed, I write so that you may know how one ought to conduct himself **in the household of God, which is the church of the living God, the pillar and support of the truth.** (1 Tim 3:14-15 NAS)*

and (4) sing (a cappella) psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs

*Let the word of Christ richly dwell within you, with all wisdom **teaching and admonishing one another with psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing** with thankfulness in your hearts to*

God. (Col 3:16 NAS)

*speaking to one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and **making melody with your heart** to the Lord; (Eph 5:19 NAS)*

The woman may engage in every one of these activities with the exception of the responsibility to lead in these matters. The leading in Christ that the woman must do must be in subjection to all men present.

*In the same way, you wives, be submissive to your own husbands so that even if any of them are disobedient to the word, they may be won without a word **by the behavior of their wives**, (1 Pet 3:1 NAS)*

*Let a woman quietly receive instruction with **entire submissiveness**. But I do not allow a woman to teach or **exercise authority over a man**, but to remain quiet. (1 Tim 2:11-12 NAS)*

90. What are the older women to do? _____

*Likewise, **teach the older women** to be reverent in the way they live, not to be slanderers or addicted to much wine, but to **teach what is good**. Then they can **train the younger women** to love their husbands and children, to be self-controlled and pure, to be busy at home, to be kind, and to be subject to their husbands, so that no one will malign the word of God. (Tit 2:3-5 NIV)*

You may be interested in the following observations as many men do not want to do what they call "woman's work".

91. Is there a division of man's and woman's work in the home? _____

*And He sent **two of His disciples**, and said to them, "Go into the city, and a man will meet you carrying a pitcher of water; follow him; and wherever he enters, say to the owner of the house, 'The Teacher says, "Where is My guest room in which I may eat the Passover with My disciples?"' "And he himself will show you a large upper room furnished and ready; and **prepare for us there**." (Mark 14:13-15 NAS)*

91. What were the deacons to do in Acts 6? _____

*And the twelve summoned the congregation of the disciples and said, "It is not desirable for us to neglect the word of God in order to **serve tables**." (Acts 6:2 NAS)*

Is there a work that a woman can't do? The manner in which she does the work and to whom the work is to be carried is different, but the work is the same. May a woman be an evangelist? As long as she does not have dominion over the man! Thus, within her sphere she is indeed to evangelize. Acts 8:4, Mt 28:20

May God bless you, and each of us, as we seek to do the work God has assigned to each one. Only in this way will the body be complete. I Cor 12:14-27.