

Prayer Study #75
The Woman Issue

...there is neither male nor female, for ye are all one in Christ Jesus.

Galatians 3:28

1. In the original Greek there is only one word for *man* –none for *husband*; and only one Greek word for *woman*-none for *wife*. In the King James you must look at the context to determine which word is appropriate, i.e. *man* or *husband*, *woman* or *wife*. ***Clearly the translators often did not make the right distinction, based on reading the context.***
2. The wife is to submit to the husband, even as the husband is to love the wife as Christ also loved the church and gave Himself for it and are to love the wife as his own body.(Ephesians 5:22-33)
3. There is no scriptural basis for women to submit to men, except in the context of marriage.
4. There are two famous passages about women keeping silence in the church:

Let your women[wives] keep silence in the churches[note that it says keep silence, not be silent-the women and children sat on one side of the church and the men sat on the other. Paul is telling the women to keep the children quiet and not to yell across to their husbands on the other side during the service]; for it is not permitted unto them to speak; but they are commanded to be under obedience, as also saith the law. And if they will learn any thing, let them ask their husbands at home; for it is a shame for women[wives] to speak in the church[i.e. to ask questions during the service that would distract others from the message and to usurp and exercise authority over men in the church.] 1st Corinthians 14:34-36

Let the woman[wife] learn in silence with all subjection[to the husband]. But I suffer not a woman[wife]to teach, nor to usurp authority over the man[husband], but to be in silence. For Adam was first formed, then Eve. And Adam was not deceived, but the woman being deceived was in the transgression. Notwithstanding she shall be saved in childbearing, if they continue in faith and charity and holiness with sobriety. 1st Timothy 2:11-15

5. Clearly these scriptures do not forbid women in general or even wives who submit to the authority of their husbands and have the permission of the husband to pray, prophesy, and teach in churches, else other scriptures would contradict the above passages:

But every woman that prayeth or prophesieth with her head uncovered dishonoreth her head; for that is even all one as if she were shaven. 1st Corinthians 11:5

But this is that which was spoken by the prophet Joel: And it shall come to pass in the last days, saith God, I will pour out of my Spirit upon all flesh, and your sons AND YOUR DAUGHTERS shall prophesy... Acts 2:16-17

The Lord gave(happy) tidings; they are published by the female messengers, a numerous host. Psalm 68:11

And he [Apollos] began to speak boldly in the synagogue, whom when Aquilla and Priscilla had heard, they took him unto them, and expounded unto him the way of God more perfectly. Acts 18:26

6. Examples of women who prophesied include Mary, the mother of Jesus; Elizabeth, the mother of John the Baptist; Anna, the prophetess. Phebe(Romans 16:1,2)was thought to be a deaconess. Tryphena, Tryphosa, and Persis(Romans 16:12)were women who appararently had ministries.

I, as a man, personally have been greatly impacted by women teachers and have read the works of people such as Billy Graham's daughter Anne Lutz, Joyce Meyer, Beth Moore, and many others who have led me to a closer walk in Christ. Why would the Lord anoint them to teach if it was contrary to scripture? Why would almost all the house church leaders in the New Testament be women if they were to be relegated to a secondary position. I do not have time in this short study to do anything except to give you some scripture to study. A careful examination of scripture, not men's commentary, should show you TRUTH. Our search of the scriptures have given us the position that women cannot only teach but can minister in our fellowship of believers.