

THE BELLEVILLE MESSENGER

February 13

2022

Women Are Not To...

The topic concerning how involved a woman can be in the church is one that needs to be taken very seriously. Why? Well, because we live in a time when many disagree with the respective role that God has assigned to a woman. Therefore, many are unfortunately turning away from God's instruction regarding the role of a woman in the church, and are instituting their own rules on the matter of what women can do in the church. So, knowing that, let's examine what the Bible has to say concerning what women are not permitted to do in the church.

Women Are Not Permitted To Be Elders or Deacons

In writing to Timothy concerning the qualifications of an elder the apostle Paul wrote, "This is a faithful saying: If a man desires the position of a bishop, he desires a good work. A bishop then must be blameless, the husband of one wife..." (1 Timothy 3:1-2). Now, notice what Paul said. He said, if a man, not a woman, but if a man desired the position of an elder, then he, not she, desired a good work. He also says that an elder must be the husband of one wife, not the wife of one husband. Likewise, Paul, in regard to the qualifications of deacons said, "Let deacons be the husbands of one wife..." (1 Timothy 3:12). Now, God's all inspired word does not get any more clearer than that when it comes to the matter of a woman serving as an elder or as a deacon in the church. Therefore, we must take heed to the all inspired word of God, and we must always appoint qualified men, and only men as elders or deacons in the church.

Women Are Not Permitted To Preach

Paul, while instructing the Corinthian brethren on how to conduct proper order in the Lord's church penned, "Let your women keep silent in the churches, for they are not permitted to speak; but they are to be submissive, as the law says" (1 Corinthians 14:34). Now, this verse is often taken out of its context, and some believe that women are to be absolutely silent, making no sound what so ever in the church assembly (i.e. if this is so, then women would not be permitted to sing in worship to God). However, when we keep this verse in its proper context, we can determine that the speaking that is forbidden is that of a woman publicly addressing the church. For, if she did so, she would be in violation of her place of submission to a man. For, Paul said, "But I want you to know that the head of every man is Christ, the head of woman is man, and the head of Christ is God" (1 Corinthians 11:3). Again, we must take heed to the all inspired word of God. Therefore, we must not permit women to preach or have any part in the worship service (i.e. lead a prayer, lead singing, preside at the Lord's table etc.) where she publically addresses the church.

Women Are Not Permitted To Have Authority Over A Man

We read in 1 Timothy 2:11-14, "Let a woman learn in silence and submission. And I do not permit a woman to teach or have authority over a man, but to be in silence. For Adam was formed first, then Eve. And Adam was not deceived, but the women being deceived, fell into transgression." Here, Paul again emphasizes the importance of a woman being in submission to a man, and he says women are not to teach or have authority over men. Therefore, this means that women have no Scriptural authority to teach in any setting were they exercise authority over men.

Now, although there are many today who disagree with the restrictions that God has placed on the involvement of women in the church, we must always respect the limitations that God has put in place concerning a woman's role in the church!

✍️ Brad Phillips

The Role Of The Father In The Home

It was several years ago that I saw a comic strip which pictured a little boy's asking his mother, "Why did we get daddy?" Many children have not been blessed by their fathers as they should have been. We are being reminded in newscasts now that many little ones are being abused by the very people who should love and protect them. Some are neglected; some are brutally beaten; some are sexually assaulted. A nation is very sick spiritually when many helpless children need protection from their own fathers. Unbelief, drugs, and ungodly forms of entertainment have in some cases destroyed the part of man that is in the image of God, making him into a "natural brute beast" (2 Pet. 2:12 KJV).

A child should find a wonderful place of refuge in the presence of his father. He has a right to feel very secure in his arms. Food, clothing, shelter, and other essential things that money can buy should be considered the responsibility of the man who begat them (1 Tim. 5:8). A man who will not provide these things has denied the faith and is worse than an infidel. It seems evident that there are many thousand men who cannot be depended on to meet these basic needs. Such men are not likely to read articles like this, nor do they read and meditate on the law of God.

Money is not the only thing that a man should provide for his children. If it were, he would not be missed if he died leaving a large insurance policy for his family. Children do not know how to use money, so if that is all they have from their father they are poor instead of rich. They can be destroyed both physically and spiritually by an ample supply of cash (Matt. 19:23, 24; Mk. 10:23-26). A good father may be a real blessing to his children in teaching them to restrain themselves and to have wisdom in the use of money. The young certainly need to be taught to earn. Citizens who prefer stealing, begging, or arranging for tax money for all their needs are unworthy of the food they eat. (See 2 Thess. 3:10.) One generation that will not work tends to bring up another generation in its own likeness.

Proper discipline is a prerequisite to righteousness. It is not a joyous experience to receive or to administer the chastening, but the peaceable fruit of righteousness is a wonderful thing to see (Heb. 12:5; Prov. 13:24; 22:6). Bringing up a child in the way he should go is not just a matter of wise use of the rod of punishment. There is need for teaching the wisdom of the past and the revealed will of God so that each generation may not make the same old mistakes that have characterized the past. Instruction may be given morning, noon, or night (Dent. 6:6-9). The wildest elements in America today are ignorant of things people have learned in past experiences, and of the revealed wisdom of God. They perish through lack of knowledge. The failure of a father to teach is a

serious and inexcusable failure.

Israel's history in the early period of its national existence gives an impressive example. "The people served the Lord all the days of Joshua, and all the days of the elders that outlived Joshua, who had seen all the great works of the Lord, that he did for Israel . . . All that generation were gathered unto their fathers: and there arose another generation after them, which knew not the Lord, nor yet the works which he had done for Israel. And the children of Israel did evil in the sight of the Lord, and served Baalim" (Judg. 2:7-11). Think how different the story would have been if the people had taught their children as earnestly as Moses asked them to do as recorded in the book of Deuteronomy.

Fathers should win their children's respect through their good examples and through their loving patience as they spend time with them. Children need to be guided into the company of worthy companions. Souls are involved (1 Cor. 15:33). Children are to be guided and trained just as they are to be fed and clothed.

A man has reason to rejoice if he has a pleasant, profitable, and challenging occupation, but he should also know that his position as a father can be just as pleasant, profitable, and challenging if he will put time into this work with precious material. Children are a heritage of the Lord (Psa. 127:3). Failure as a father can bring sorrow beyond measure. Success is possible (Prov. 22:6).

Fathers should provide training, chastening, physical needs, worthy examples, proper environment, and a family name of which their children will have no occasion to be ashamed.

✍️ *Irven Lee*

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Schedule of Services

Sunday Bible Study	9:30 a.m.
Sunday Morning Worship	10:30 a.m.
Sunday Evening Worship	4:00 p.m.
Wednesday Bible Study	7:00 p.m.

Evangelist

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