



# APOSTOLIC RESTORATION OF WOMEN IN MINISTRY



# Amanda Buys' Spiritual Covering

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# **PART A:**

## **THE POSITION OF WOMEN IN THE CHURCH**

## PART A:

# THE POSITION OF WOMEN IN THE CHURCH

(This teaching is a summary of tape recordings by Dr. Ed Stewart.)

## 1. Freedom of Women to be in Leadership

**1 Timothy 2:12** *“12 I allow no woman to teach or to have authority over men; she is to remain in quietness and keep silence [in religious assemblies].”*

I am teaching on the freedom of women to be in leadership in the church and that callings are more important than gender.

Now see what Luke wrote. He was there. He saw it. He heard it.



**Acts 10:34** *“34 And Peter opened his mouth and said: Most certainly and thoroughly I now perceive and understand that God shows no partiality and is no respecter of persons,”*

Now we should be able to stop right there. The Bible is so clear: Over and over again the Bible teaches that God is not a respecter of persons. It doesn't matter whether you're black or you're white, whether you're Swedish or Chinese, whether you're rich or poor, or whether you're male or female. God is not a respecter of persons.

Of course we can't stop there. Why? Because we have 1000 years of tradition where we have been taught for 20, 30, 40 years that God **IS** a respecter of persons. A man can lead, but a women can't. And why? Is it because of qualification? No! Is it because of education? No! It's because I have short hair and she has long hair. It's purely based on gender!

We've got to get pass this, because God is calling men AND women all over the world to do things they never dreamed God would ask them to do. God is preparing to dump the world into our churches and we're going to need everybody.

I remember the revival in Mexico in the early 1960's. This church in Mexico city held 2000 people. They were holding seven services a day, six days a week and people were still standing in the streets, waiting to get in. The pastor could NEVER finish a message. People ran for the front of the church and gave their hearts to Y'shua (Jesus).

## 2. Callings are More Important than Gender

And we're in a time like that. And we've got to get free so that we can all obey Y'shua / Jesus. God hasn't called every woman to travel all over the world anymore than he has called every man to do that. But IF you're called by the Lord, the question is: "Will you obey that call?"

I have met women from all over the world. They said, "When I was just a little girl," or they say, "Earlier in my life, God told me to do this and I couldn't believe it, because the Bible said I couldn't do it."

Isn't that amazing? That God would ask someone to do something that He had already written in His Word you wouldn't be able to do?

This message is not just for women, but for the Body of Messiah. If my wife isn't free, and she IS, I couldn't be free, because my wife and I **are one**. Are you listening to me? So whatever affects her, affects me, and whatever affects me, affects her.

The Body of Messiah is one and whatever affects a sister, affects a brother. Y'shua (Jesus) says if one of us is hurt, we all feel it. If one of us is blessed, we should all rejoice. And so the freedom of every member of the Body of Christ affects the freedom of every other member of the Body of Christ.

We need to take these difficult passages about women and bring a proper Biblical interpretation. We have to lay tradition aside; we have to lay religion aside; we have to lay culture aside, we've got to look at the scripture.

Now the reason we get wrong interpretations is simply because good Bible interpretation principles were not used. We're going to be working with three basic principles.

## 3. We must interpret a verse in context (Contextual Interpretation)

The Western Church is famous for lifting a verse out of the Bible, putting it on the wall, and writing their interpretation. Scripture is always interpreted within the context of the setting. Let me give you an example:

**1 Corinthians 14: 23-35** "23 Therefore, if the whole church assembles and all of you speak in [unknown] tongues, and the ungifted and uninitiated or unbelievers come in, will they not say that you are demented?"24 But **if all prophesy** [giving inspired testimony and interpreting the divine will and purpose] and an unbeliever or untaught outsider comes in, he is told of his sin and reprovved and convicted and convinced by all, and his defects and needs are examined (estimated, determined) and he **is called to account by all**, 25 The secrets of his heart are laid bare; and so, falling on [his] face, he will worship God, declaring that God is among you in very truth. 26 What then, brethren, is [the right course]? When you meet together, **each one has a hymn**, a teaching, a disclosure of special knowledge or information, an utterance in a [strange] tongue, or an interpretation of it. [But] let everything be constructive and edifying and for the good of all. 27 If some speak in a [strange] tongue, let the number be limited to two or at the most three, and each one [taking his] turn, and let one interpret and explain [what is said]. 28 But if there is no one to do the interpreting, let each of them keep still in church and talk to himself and to God.

*29 So let two or three prophets speak [those inspired to preach or teach], while the rest pay attention and weigh and discern what is said. 30 But if an inspired revelation comes to another who is sitting by, then let the first one be silent. 31 For in this way you can give testimony [prophesying and thus interpreting the divine will and purpose] one by one, so that **all** may be instructed and **all** may be stimulated and encouraged; 32 For the spirits of the prophets (the speakers in tongues) are under the speaker's control [and subject to being silenced as may be necessary], 33 For He [Who is the source of their prophesying] is not a God of confusion and disorder but of peace and order. As [is the practice] in all the churches of the saints (God's people), 34 The women should keep quiet in the churches, for they are not authorized to speak, but should take a secondary and subordinate place, just as the Law also says. 35 But if there is anything they want to learn, they should ask their own husbands at home, for it is disgraceful for a woman to talk in church [for her to usurp and exercise authority over men in the church]."*

**Verse 23:** **All** could speak in tongues; it needs to be done orderly, but **all** can do it.

**Verse 24:** **All** could prophesy; it also needs to be done orderly, but **all** can do it.

**Verse 26:** **Each one** has a hymn, a teaching, a revelation, a tongue or interpretation of it.

**Verse 31:** **All** can prophesy; **all** can learn, and **all** can be encouraged.

Paul says **all** may speak in tongues, **all** may prophesy, **all** may have a revelation, or a psalm, **all** can prophesy (he says it twice) that all may learn that **all** may be comforted.

**Verse 34:** Let your women keep silent.

Can you see the problem? Paul says, All can speak in tongues; all can prophesy; each one of you has a revelation or a psalm, but the women must be silent in the church.

Can you prophesy silently? Can you sing a psalm silently?

That is called a contextual problem, and you only see it if you read the whole passage in context.

If you highlight verse 34, you're going to write a doctrine that says, Women must be silent in the churches, while on FIVE occasions in the previous verses Paul said **all** could participate in the service.

**Verse 35:** If a woman wants to know anything, let her ask her husband at home, for it is shameful for a woman to speak in church.

Paul seems to say that all women can learn in the church (verse 31), and then he writes in verse 35 that if they want to learn anything, they must go home and ask their husbands. This will be very difficult for single women; and widows.



#### 4. We have to read the scriptures!

We are talking about doctrine, when we are talking about 70% of the Body of Christ (did you know that nearly 70% of the Body of Christ is female?); and we tell them they can't teach, they can't lead and they can't participate in the church service – I don't know how we got here. But Y'shua /Jesus is lifting the Church up – above tradition and above religion – and we are going to walk and talk with Y'shua /Jesus Christ.

Paul wrote **letters**, but we don't read them like letters. We read a verse in chapter 14 and then a verse in chapter 3 and then chapter 15 and then 3 verses in chapter 10, because we were trained to read the Bible by verses.

If you got a letter from your mother or one of your relatives, would you open the letter, turn to page 4 paragraph 3 and read line 1? And then go back to page 2 and go to paragraph 4 and read line 2? You would never know what the person wrote you!

You start at the beginning of a letter and you read the whole thing! And **then** you get a **picture** of what Paul is writing!

**1 Corinthians 7:1** *"1 NOW AS to the matters of which you wrote me. It is well [and by that I mean advantageous, expedient, profitable, and wholesome] for a man not to touch a woman [to cohabit with her] but to remain unmarried."*

The Corinthians wrote Paul a letter and Paul wrote back to them. They asked questions and shared their points of view. Paul wrote back and answered their questions and corrected their wrong viewpoints. 1 Corinthians is the answer to their letter.

Prof. Sir William Ramsey was the authority on the epistles of Paul in the mid 1800's. He wrote a book called "The Church and the Roman Empire".

Here is what he said about Paul's epistles:

"We should be ready to suspect Paul of making a quotation from the letter addressed to him by the Corinthians. Whenever he references to their knowledge, or when any statement stands in mark contrast either to the immediate context or Paul's known views."

What did Prof. Ramsey say? Whenever we find something in one of Paul's letters that does not fit the context of the passage, it is not Paul's statement, but the statement from the Corinthians. In other words, Paul quoted what they said, and then responded to what they had said. When we answer letters ourselves, we make reference to something someone else said in their letter and then we respond to it.

Paul said *"all could speak in tongues, all could prophesy, each one of you has a psalm or an interpretation"*. The Corinthians said *"let the women keep silent in the churches for it is not spiritual unto them to speak"*.

Paul said *“let all the women learn in the service”*. The Corinthians said *“if the women want to learn anything they must ask their husbands at home”*.

**Verse 36:** *“What! Did the word of the Lord originate with you [Corinthians], or has it reached only you?”*

This was Paul’s response to what they believed. Is he agreeing with them or is he correcting them? It’s a word of correction, isn’t it? He’s saying, “What are you teaching? Maybe I don’t have the Word of God and you do. Maybe the Word of God never reached me.

This is a very strong statement, because everyone in the early church knew that Paul was the only one that had the revelation of the church. Y’shua /Jesus personally took him to heaven and revealed to him the New Testament, and he came back and wrote it in these letters. And for **him** to say to the Corinthian church, *“Maybe you have the Word of God but I don’t”*, was a very strong statement.

Now we have something that fits into context. Paul wrote that **all** could participate in tongues; **all** could prophesy as the Spirit of God lead; **each one** of you could participate; **all of you** could learn in church; and **then** he spoke what the Corinthians had written to him; and the he **corrected** what they wrote him. Do you see it?

It’s the only way you can put this passage together.

**Verse 37:** *“If anyone thinks and claims that he is a prophet [filled with and governed by the Holy Spirit of God and inspired to interpret the divine will and purpose in preaching or teaching] or has any other spiritual endowment, let him understand (recognize and acknowledge) that what I am writing to you is a command of the Lord.”*

This is not the things that they wrote him. This begins to make the passage more readable. In the same chapter we have two **completely** different statements. They cannot both be correct. But Paul used a very simple literary technique. Let me demonstrate to you.

He preaches: **All** could speak in tongues; **all** could prophesy; **everyone** of you could have a psalm or a tongue or an interpretation. **All** of you can learn in the church! And then he says, let the women keep silent. And they said, Uh? And he caught them in their own words. And then he says, What are you talking about? Did the Word of God originate with you? Are you the ones that have the truth and I don’t? Let the congregation understand that the things that I write unto you are the Word of God, not the things that you wrote unto me.

**Verse 38-39:** *“38 But if anyone disregards or does not recognize [that it is a command of the Lord], he is disregarded and not recognized [he is one whom God knows not].  
39 So [to conclude], my brethren, earnestly desire and set your hearts on prophesying (on being inspired to preach and teach and to interpret God’s will and purpose), and do not forbid or hinder speaking in [unknown] tongues.”*

## 5. Paul had given the Word of Truth.

It is a shame that after 1900 years much of the church still believes what the Corinthians wrote instead of what Paul wrote.

Now, no one **really** believes that women should keep silent in Church. Every denomination and association has their own interpretation. A woman can preach in the mission field, but not at her home church. A woman can teach women, but not men.

But if the whole passage had been taught in context, and if **all** chapters had been read, and if it were understood what 1 Corinthians was, this mistake would never have been made.

Dr. Adam Clarke was an English Theologian. He says in reference to **1 Corinthians 14:34**: "It is the only scripture in the whole Book of God which, even by a false translation, can be made to prohibit females from speaking in the church.

How is it then that by this **one isolated passage** which according to our best Greek authority is wrongly translated, women's lips have been silenced for centuries? **One passage!**

Now they could have helped us. They could have put verses 34 and 35 in quotation marks, showing that somebody else was saying it. They could've given a little comment in the margin.

Montgomery New Testament: *"In your congregations you write..."*

Now this would've helped us, wouldn't it? Montgomery said, **You** wrote this, **I** didn't.

The Swedish translation of the Bible has a line drawn at the beginning and at the end of the passage that sets it apart.

There are things that could've been done to help us, **but** we can all read the passage in context. And when you do, you see a very big problem.

**1 Corinthians 11:5** "5 And **any woman** who [publicly] prays or prophesies (teaches, refutes, reproves, admonishes, or comforts) when she is bareheaded dishonors her head (her husband); it is the same as [if her head were] shaved."

In this verse Paul says women can pray and prophesy in church, but chapter 14 says let them be silent.

We've had so much revelation in the last 20 years; we can't even keep up with it! But we also need to be a Church of Scholarship. We need revelation, but we need to be able to prove it in the Word of God. And all through the New Testament women are preaching and teaching and serving the Lord, and to pull **one** verse out of context and apply it as an eternal law is completely erroneous!



**1 Corinthians 14:34** *“Let you women keep silent for it is not permitted for them to speak.”*

Wow, this is the love of Y’shua /Jesus, isn’t it?

**1 Corinthians 14:34** *“34 The women should keep quiet in the churches, for they are not authorized to speak, but should take a secondary and subordinate place, just as **the Law** also says.”*

Most people think Paul is talking about the Mosaic Law. Have you ever read the Old Testament? Did you ever read anything that said, Let women keep silent in the churches? Read the Old Testament and see if you can find it!

What law is Paul talking about then?

There are three laws taught in the New Testament:

1. Mosaic Law
2. Roman law (at that time in history)
3. Jewish traditional law.

The traditional Jewish law says: “It is a shame for a woman to let her voice be heard among men.” This sounds pretty close to what we read in **1 Corinthians 14:34**. The Corinthians believed old Jewish, traditional law.

## **6. God never told women to be silent in the churches!**

We all have thoughts like, *“If it says so in the Bible, it has to be true?”*

Everything in the Bible is truly stated. It is stated the way the Holy Spirit directed it to be written. But not everything in the Bible is a **statement of truth**.

**John 8:52** *“52 The Jews said to Him, Now we know that You are under the power of a demon (insane). Abraham died, and also the prophets, yet You say, If a man keeps My word, he will never taste of death into all eternity.”*

Is this true? Did Y’shua /Jesus have a demon? We do believe the Jews said this, but we don’t believe Y’shua /Jesus had a demon, because it is **not a statement of truth**.

Paul wrote **1 Corinthians 14:34-35** at the direction of the Spirit, but **it was not a statement of truth**.

Do you see it? Everything in the Bible is stated correctly – the Holy Spirit didn’t make any mistakes – but not everything He had the people write was a statement of truth.

## **7. We have to interpret a verse in its Historical setting.**

The Bible (New Testament) was written over 2000 years ago in a language that doesn’t even exist today. The Greek language today is very different from the “koine” Greek of the first century. Has anything changed in 2000 years?



There are eternal principles in the Bible – they're true in any time-frame and in any setting. Examples:

1. **"Y'shua /Jesus Christ is the Son of God."** It was true 5000 years ago and it'll be true 5000 years from now.
2. **"The Trinity"**
3. **"Entering God's presence by faith."**

These are principles that never change. There's one True and Living God – He never changes. But not everything in the New Testament is an eternal principle. Some things were written because of the circumstances they faced in the first century. And we've accepted some passages as eternal principles such as:

**1 Timothy 2:12** *"12 I allow no woman to teach or to have authority over men; she is to remain in quietness and keep silence [in religious assemblies]."*

This was interpreted as an eternal principle: No woman in any generation can teach the Bible, because if they do, they're exercising authority over men, and that's contrary to Scripture. This is the traditional interpretation of the verse.

Do you know any woman Bible teachers? Do you think they're all in sin disobeying God? Have you ever seen a woman Bible teacher anointed of God? Why did God anoint her? Maybe we should send God a letter and let Him know that He's making a mistake. [I'm being humorous only to make a point.]

Timothy was the pastor in Ephesus. In the first century of the church in Asia Minor (Turkey) there was a very serious false doctrine. It was called **Gnosticism**. It was in all the churches in Asia Minor and Ephesus was the capitol of Asia Minor. This is some historical background so you can understand what Paul was writing.

What did the Gnostics teach? In 1945 in Egypt an entire Gnostic library was uncovered. Gnosticism was a very female-dominant religion. Gnostic is the Greek word for "knowledge".

Gnostic women believed:

1. They were the mediators between God and man.
2. Woman was created first in the garden; woman was primary in creation.
3. Woman did not sin in creation; she received special knowledge from the serpent.
4. Sexual practices bind the flesh and divine together – when people have sex with leaders it brings them closer to God.

This is what Paul is writing to Timothy about.

**1 Timothy 2:5** “5 For there [is only] one God, and [only] one Mediator between God and men, the Man Christ Jesus,”

Doesn't everybody know this? Is this news to you? But the Gnostics were teaching something else.

So, Paul made it plain to Timothy that there's only **One Mediator**. You have to remember that this is about 60 AD and the only man that had the full revelation was Paul, and he received it by revelation from Y'shua /Jesus Christ.

**1 Timothy 2:13** “13 For Adam was first formed, then Eve;”

What did the Gnostics believe? That woman was created first and man second. Paul writes, “No, the man was first formed and then the woman” a direct refuting of Gnostic doctrine.

**1 Timothy 2:14** “14 And it was not Adam who was deceived, but [the] woman who was deceived and deluded and fell into transgression.”

Did the Gnostics believe woman sinned? No.

**1 Timothy 2:12** “12 I allow no woman to teach or to have authority over men; she is to remain in quietness and keep silence [in religious assemblies].”

Let's say you're the pastor of a church and you've got someone in your church teaching that woman were created first; that the woman didn't sin in the garden; and that women are the mediators between God and man. What would you do?

Would you forbid women to teach because they're **women** or because they're **wrong**?

The only criteria to stop someone from teaching is if they teach what is wrong.

**1 Timothy 2:17** “17 And their teaching [will devour; it] will eat its way like cancer or spread like gangrene. So it is with Hymenaeus and Philetus,”

Here Paul **corrects two men** in their teaching. He didn't just correct the women – he corrected the men **and** the women. Paul corrected people because they were wrong, not because of their gender. So, Paul is not telling all women for all time they cannot teach.

## **8. We have to interpret the verse in term of the original language. (Grammatik interpretation)**

Let's look at the word “authority” in the verse above (**1 Tim. 2:12**). If you do not look at the original languages, you miss the whole interpretation. The general word for “authority” in Greek is “exousia”, and there are 18 different English words you can use to translate that word into; e.g. power, authority, magistrate, strength, etc.

If you can follow the Holy Spirit, it will solve many of the problems of life.

Excerpt from an article on Gnosticism:

*“Ancient heresies and a strange Greek word:  
Previously, they had been taught that fornication brought the worshipper in direct communion with deity. It’s noteworthy that certain Gnostics employed the word “authentine” to indicate a force binding together the flesh and divine.”*

The author of this article says that the Gnostics used that very unusual Greek word “authentica” to describe the bringing together of the flesh with the divine. This is exactly what Paul was teaching. We can’t see it, because we used the general word of “authority”.

In the 4<sup>th</sup> century the great church father, John Christerton, wrote that “authentica” was used to express sexual license.

The early church knew what this meant. All the writings of the early church fathers indicate that they understood this. It wasn’t until later that this word was transposed to “authority”. That’s the common translation today.

The Bible says that God gave five ministries to perfect the Church: The apostle, the prophet, the evangelist, the pastor and the teacher. We need these ministries.

Because of these passages that we’ve been looking at, many women have not been able to follow Y’shua /Jesus the way Y’shua /Jesus wants them to follow Him. That’s the important part. We have to be able to follow Y’shua /Jesus.

## **WOMEN APOSTLES:**

Did you know there were **women apostles** in the first century?

**Romans 16:7** *“7 Remember me to Andronicus and Junias, my tribal kinsmen and once my fellow prisoners. They are men held in high esteem among the apostles, who also were in Christ before I was.”*

Andronikus was a man; Junias was a **woman**. They were both **apostles** in the early church and John Christerton wrote about her and he said she was a great woman; a great apostle of God.



Would you like to see a woman evangelist? I’ve found over 25 woman ministers in the New Testament. But sometimes because of the translation they’re veiled. We can’t see clearly.

## **PROPHETESS:**

**Luke 2:36a** “36 And there was also a **prophetess, Anna**, the daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Asher. She was very old, having lived with her husband seven years from her maidenhood,”

So, we have a woman apostle and we have a woman prophet. God calls women to be apostles. God calls women in the prophetic office.

#### **PREACHER:**

**Luke 2:37-38** “37 And as a widow even for eighty-four years. She did not go out from the temple enclosure, but was worshiping night and day with fasting and prayer. 38 And she too came up at that same hour, and she returned thanks to God and **talked of [Jesus] to all** who were looking for the redemption (deliverance) of Jerusalem.”

When we read this we think of this little elderly lady talking to 2 or 3 people about redemption. But the word spoken there in translation, is **preach**.

**Mark 2:2** “2 And so many people gathered together there that there was no longer room [for them], not even around the door; and **He was discussing the Word.**”

Whatever Y’shua /Jesus was doing, Anna was doing – it is the same Greek word. But when we think of Y’shua /Jesus, we think of something different than Anna would do.

**Acts 8:25** “25 Now when [the apostles] had borne their testimony and **preached** the message of the Lord, they went back to Jerusalem, proclaiming the glad tidings (Gospel) to many villages of the Samaritans [on the way].”

Here we have Peter and John and they were ministering the Word of the Lord; the same Greek word. Whatever Peter and John was doing, Anna was doing. Whatever Y’shua / Jesus was doing – Anna was doing.

**Luke 2: 38b** “38 And she too came up at that same hour, and she returned thanks to God and **talked of [Jesus] to all** who were looking for the redemption (deliverance) of Jerusalem.”

She pulled up a podium and began to preach to all of them that Christ has come, because they had just brought Y’shua /Jesus in to be circumcised. She preached to all those who were looking for redemption.

This verse has always been in the Bible but our mindset has blinded our eyes. We don’t see these things, Y’shua /Jesus makes you look at these things.

**John 4:22, 25-26** “22 You [Samaritans] do not know what you are worshiping [you worship what you do not comprehend]. We do know what we are worshiping [we worship what we have knowledge of and understand], for [after all] salvation comes from [among] the Jews. 25 The woman said to Him, I know that Messiah is coming, He Who is called the Christ (the Anointed One); and when He arrives, He will tell us everything we need to know and make it clear to us. 26 Jesus said to her, I Who now speak with you am He.”

Y'shua /Jesus didn't tell people who He was. He always said, "I am the Son of man." But to this woman He said, I am the Messiah. He said this to encourage her ministry, because look what she does.

#### EVANGELIST:



Now look at verse 39: "39 Now numerous Samaritans from that town believed in and trusted in Him because of **what the woman said** when she declared and testified, He told me everything that I ever did."

This woman went back to Samaria and she **preached** to the whole city. What do evangelists do? They preach to whole cities. People believed because of what this woman said to them. Many in this city believed because of the word of this woman. This is city-wide evangelism.

Y'shua /Jesus chooses the vessel; we do not choose.

Y'shua /Jesus chooses the gift; we do not choose.

Y'shua /Jesus chooses the call; we do not choose.

This is part of God's Sovereignty. He put gifts in each one and if you put all of them together, you will have a whole body and nothing shall be impossible.

Verse 40-41 – Now Jesus was evangelizing.

Is the woman's evangelizing anything less than Y'shua /Jesus? She won many Samaritans to the Lord; Y'shua /Jesus also won many more to the Lord. Whatever Y'shua /Jesus was doing, she was doing.

**Verse 42** "42 And they told the woman, Now we no longer believe (trust, have faith) just because of what you said; for we have heard Him ourselves [personally], and we know that He truly is the Savior of the world, the Christ."

**Acts 18:26-28** "25 He had been instructed in the way of the Lord, and burning with spiritual zeal, he spoke and taught diligently and accurately the things concerning Jesus, though he was acquainted only with the baptism of John. 26 He began to speak freely (fearlessly and boldly) in the synagogue; but when **Priscilla** and Aquila heard him, they took him with them and expounded to him the way of God more definitely and accurately. 27 And when [Apollos] wished to cross to Achaia (most of Greece), the brethren wrote to the disciples there, urging and encouraging them to accept and welcome him heartily. When he arrived, he proved a great help to those who through grace (God's unmerited favor and mercy) had believed (adhered to, trusted in, and relied on Christ as Lord and Savior). 28 For with great power he refuted the Jews in public [discussions], showing and proving by the Scriptures that Jesus is the Christ (the Messiah)."

If you're ever going to grow in your life in ministry, you're going to have to respect the leadership God places over you because God does things sovereignly.

**Genesis 1:26** *"26 God said, Let Us [Father, Son, and Holy Spirit] make mankind in Our image, after Our likeness, and **let them have complete authority** over the fish of the sea, the birds of the air, the [tame] beasts, and over all of the earth, and over everything that creeps upon the earth."*

## 9. Man (men and women) were created to have dominion.

Man (men and women) were created to rule and dominate the forces of nature. Verse 28 says man has dominion over everything that moves on the earth. Both men and women were given authority to dominate.

You were created to rule and dominate over everything, **not over each other**. Man must rule over the devil, rule over the circumstances of life and the resources of the earth but our culture has trained us to rule over each other – and this creates **conflict, strife** and **unforgiveness**.

When you rule **in** your family, you rule **over** the devil, sickness and disease, financial lack, etc – **but not over your wife**.

God knows you are designed to dominate – He made you that way – it's a natural thing, but it's not natural to dominate people. That's unnatural in the Kingdom of God.

**John 13:34** *"34 I give you a new commandment: that you should love one another. Just as I have loved you, so you too should love one another."*

We need to learn to love. Whatever your doctrine – if it's not dipped in the Love of Y'shua / Jesus, it's not New Testament, because the basis of the New Testament is the Love of Y'shua / Jesus.

**Genesis 3:16** *"16 To the woman He said, I will greatly multiply your grief and your suffering in pregnancy and the pangs of childbearing; with spasms of distress you will bring forth children. Yet your desire and craving will be for your husband, and he will rule over you."*

This verse looks pretty plain, like a statement or fact. But what happened just before this verse?

**Genesis 3:7** *"7 Then the eyes of them both were opened, and they knew that they were naked; and they sewed fig leaves together and made themselves apronlike girdles."*

**Both** had sinned and lost their connection with God. Both of their spirits died. They had bowed their knees to another spirit and turned their back to God.

**Genesis 1:28** *"28 And God blessed them and said to them, Be fruitful, multiply, and fill the earth, and subdue it [using all its vast resources in the service of God and man]; and **have dominion** over the fish of the sea, the birds of the air, and over every living creature that moves upon the earth."*

## 10. God blessed the man AND the woman.

The one wasn't blessed more than the other – equal blessings. God spoke to **both** of them – equal relationship with God.

Note it does not say that man hears from God and then tells the wife, that the wife doesn't have a relationship with God herself.

**Genesis 3:8** “8 And they heard the sound of the Lord God walking in the garden in the cool of the day, and Adam and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the Lord God among the trees of the garden.”

Both walked and talked with God – they had an equal relationship with God.

Genesis 1:28 “...have dominion...” Who was to have dominion? THEY were.

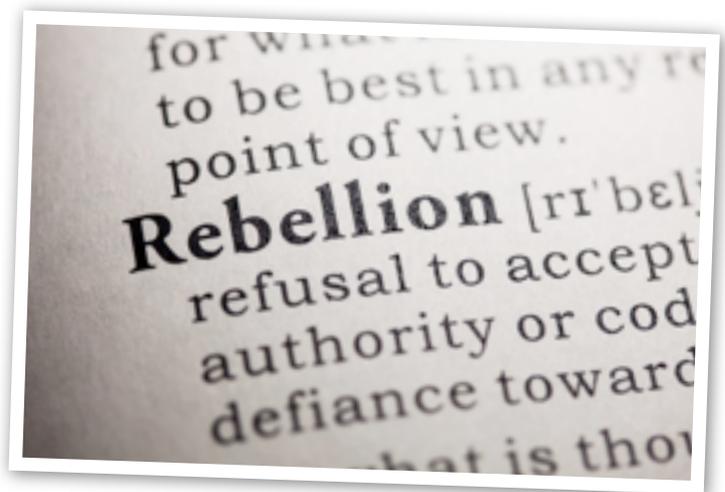
EQUAL blessing.

EQUAL relationship.

EQUAL dominion.

They were one in God.

What happened? They rebelled against God; they sinned; and everything changed. Now it's not God working through them, but the enemy of God: satan.



Satan's job is to rule humanity.

- Rule you in your health – we call it sickness;
- rule you in your finances – we call it poverty;
- rule you in your emotions – we call it anger and strife.

And now he was working through two people.

God was not telling people His will – we already have His Will in Genesis 1. God was prophesying what was going to happen: Because of what you've done, these things are going to come upon you. The ground isn't going to yield to you anymore. And husband is going to rule his mate – not the earth, not the resources of the earth, because he lost that – now he's going to rule a human.

The Law of the New Testament is to love one another. But that's not all, because this is what the Old Testament says as well. What Y'shua /Jesus told us to do, was to love each other the way He loves us.

We are the only religion in the World where the God we worship lives in the worshipper. So, we need to let Him work through us in our marriages, in our relationships, and it will release more power.

We should walk in love wherever we go. We don't have to agree with everyone about everything. We should love a brother / sister even though he/she is not spirit-filled and speaking in other tongues.

Y'shua /Jesus, our Saviour, lives inside Christians, and therefore we should love our fellow-Christians. If I deny my neighbour my love, I'm actually denying my Saviour my love.

My God lives on the inside of my husband / wife. How can I be offended at him / her?

We are married to the sons / daughters of Almighty God.

God wants to release the power of heaven through us. Let things go by forgiving those who have hurt us! Don't get offended.

If we learn to love one another the way God loves us, we'll have so much power and revelation flowing through us.

Even if a person never changes; never reaches great heights; falls to the lowest places – Y'shua /Jesus' love will not change. He loved you yesterday as much as today and as much as tomorrow. His love is not performance-centered – it's 100%!

We are to love the way He does.

You don't try to remake people so they don't bother you. You learn to love people and what they do doesn't bother you anymore. Instead of trying to change **everybody**, you only need to change **one** person – yourself.

This will explode your Christianity.



There is a special anointing for husband and wife couples who chooses to serve the Lord together. When these Christian couples minister the Word of God together, God will multiply their anointing ten times.

**John 14:12b** *"...he will do even greater things..."*

## **PART B:**

# **THE ROLE OF THE WOMAN AS A “COMPLEMENTARY OPPOSITE” IN MARRIAGE**

## PART B:

# REDEFINING THE ROLE OF THE WOMAN IN OUR MARRIAGES AS A "COMPLEMENTARY OPPOSITE"

The topic arises immediately from the instruction out of Paul's letter to the Ephesians:

*Genesis 5:22 Wives, submit to your own husbands, as to the Lord.*

And so the question begs to be asked:

(1) What was the husband-wife relationship supposed to be in the **Old Testament**?

AND

(2) What is this same relationship as defined by **Paul** supposed to mean?

This passage and others like it, very soon raise controversy. It is true that women have been ill-treated for ages:



- In many countries women are not allowed to attend school.
- In most of the world some form of slavery of women occurs.
- In most countries women do not get equal opportunity at work and so on.
- Abuse of women occur daily in the form of violence, rape etc.

So why would anyone of a sane mind want to think that submitting would be a good thing?

## DEFINITION

I think it is also good to see how this and other similar words are described in the dictionary so that we can see if there is anything to be concerned about.

### (a) Submit

Yielding, capitulation, acceptance, consent and compliance.

With the exception of consent and acceptance, ALL of these words have a distinctly negative connotation - and "capitulation" has the idea of a ruler vs slave relationship. So, it is quite clear that the word "submit" does not really mean anything that could be mutually beneficial.

## (b) Domination

Supremacy, superiority, power, mastery.

Once again, the idea of yielding to someone else creates the idea that “control” has been relinquished. And yet looking at these word definitions, we do not see any measure of equality.

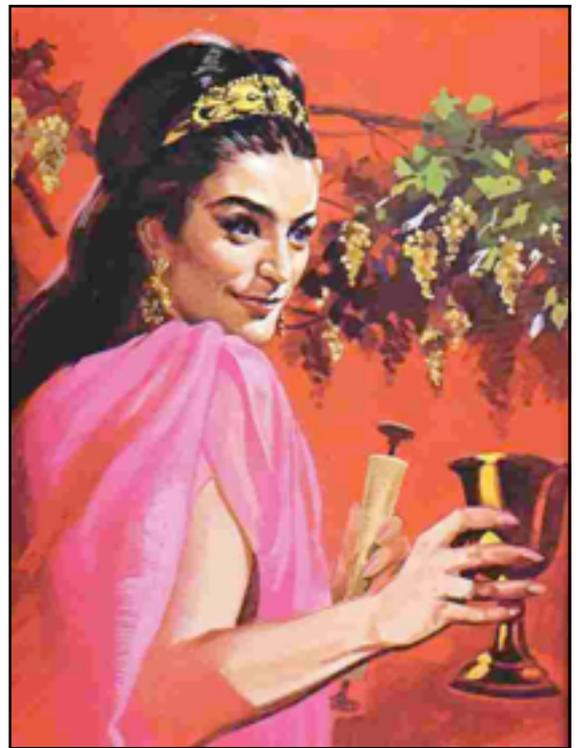
## (c) Jezebel

A word that often arises within the boundary of a relationship is that of Jezebel. It takes little to realize that one party is “boss” and the other is “slave / nothing”.

## (d) What are some synonyms for the word “submit”?

Here is a list of words to consider - do you think that any of these create a warm feeling of safety, refuge, hope, and love?

Succumb, acquiesce, surrender, appease, capitulate, relinquish, give ground, grin and bear it , knuckle under, throw in the towel, toe the line...



**\*\*NUGGET!\*\*** Considering all of the above, do you really think that it is unrealistic to see why people are afraid of the word ‘submit’?

In case you think that this is too much, let us look at the Greek word that is used in this regard - **Strong’s G5293**

- to arrange under, to subordinate
- to subject, put in subjection
- to subject one's self, obey
- to submit to one's control
- to yield to one's admonition or advice
- to obey, be subject

## DOES HISTORY GIVE US ANY CLUE TO A WOMAN’S ROLE ?

Unfortunately all three major religions have have NOT distinguished themselves well over the years as having valued the woman AS EQUAL. The following section is not meant to be a complete record, merely illustrative of the long-term prevailing trends. Please note that there are always dissenting voices who held other opinions—yet it is important to understand that generally women were NOT TREATED AS EQUAL.

## **Jewish law**

In Talmudic times, while declaring wife beating as unlawful, there were many who advocated this practice. In Babylonian times women could be assaulted if she raised her voice, failed to dress modestly and so on.

Maimonides in his Misneh Torah says beating a wife is an acceptable form of discipline. Wife-beating was widespread amongst the Spanish Jews.

## **Christian**

Legislation here established women as chattel, to be protected, chastised and controlled. Men are empowered to rule and punish. In the book, Rules of Marriage 1888, endorsed by the Catholic church, men are instructed to “scold, bully, terrify, and if that does not work, take up a stick and beat her soundly.”

## **Moslem**

In the Koran, a husband is encouraged to rebuke, to banish his wife, and to beat her if she is not obeying him.

## **Summary**

The idea is not to judge any one religion... but to show that the various religions **did little to protect and bless the woman. And in a very real way women were treated as a second class citizen.**

What does this mean? Simply that we cannot look to the religious systems to give us Godly direction.

Clearly, man has the tendency to allow self interest, positional power, and cultural norms to determine what is right and wrong.

I understand that most of these examples have **their roots** in the time before the walk of Messiah on earth. Yet sadly, many of the decisions that I refer to are made **after** Y’shua’s / Jesus’ death and resurrection.

The teaching of Y’shua /Jesus, Paul, and others have been around for ages.

How is it that the following teachings had NO effect on man’s thinking—on his attitude towards the one that Adam describes as—BONE OF MY BONE AND FLESH OF MY FLESH?

How can it be possible to read these following words, **and tell me that you are walking in obedience to God’s Commandments, and still think that it is right to ‘control / make all decisions / have greater “rights”, and so forth, than a woman?’**

## **(1) Understanding the FRUIT of the Holy Spirit**

Consider whether anyone who really understands and lives a life which daily reflects the Fruit of the Spirit; and then try to understand exactly how these same men could live this lifestyle but also decide to control, dominate, restrict someone else from a life of serving God freely?

**Galatians 5:22-25** *But the fruit of the Spirit [the result of His presence within us] is love [unselfish concern for others], joy, [inner] peace, patience [not the ability to wait, but how we act while waiting], kindness, goodness, faithfulness, 23 gentleness, self-control. Against such things there is no law. 24 And those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the [a]sinful nature together with its passions and appetites. 25 If we [claim to] live by the [Holy] Spirit, we must also walk by the Spirit [with personal integrity, godly character, and moral courage—our conduct empowered by the Holy Spirit].*

## (2) Understanding the teaching of the Sermon on the Mount

Think about these words and consider what the overall characteristics are of the man that will please God in living in the manner described, and then ask yourself whether anyone that imposes the negative pictures of control, manipulation, and so on, will be able to qualify.

**Matthew 5:3-12** *How blessed are the poor in spirit! for the Kingdom of Heaven is theirs. 4 How blessed are those who mourn for they will be comforted. 5 How blessed are **the meek!** for they **will inherit the Land!** 6 How blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness! for they will be filled. 7 How blessed are those who show mercy! for they will be shown mercy. 8 How blessed are the pure in heart! for they will see God. 9 How blessed are those who make peace! for they will be called sons of God. 10 How blessed are those who are persecuted because they pursue righteousness! for the Kingdom of Heaven is theirs. 11 How blessed you are when people insult you and persecute you and tell all kinds of vicious lies about you because you follow me! Rejoice, be glad, because your reward in Heaven is great — they persecuted the prophets before you in the same way.*

## Women in the Time of Y'SHUA /JESUS

Indeed, the most prestigious living professor of Second Temple Judaism in Israel today, now retired from the Hebrew University, says the evidence is overwhelming that in the time of Y'shua /Jesus, women were not separated from the men in the synagogue. They worshipped and prayed together.



That is a later development in Judaism.

One Jewish young woman did a doctoral dissertation in which she studied extensively inscriptions from archaeological discoveries of synagogues in the land of Israel and in that region. These inscriptions showed that women played extraordinary active roles in synagogue lives. Many of them were known as generous donors, patrons to the synagogues. Some were called leaders or the heads of synagogues. Some were referred to as elders. One was called the mother of the synagogue. Others are referred to as priests or ministers in the synagogues. We might ask, what about the life of Y'shua (Jesus)? We don't see any women leaders with Y'shua (Jesus) - actually, we don't see any men leaders either. There's only ONE Leader, Y'shua /Jesus!

There are men and women who are His disciples and who have followed Him from the beginning and they play various functions.

Women played remarkable roles in His life, ministry, death and resurrection. Who was the first witness of the resurrection from the grave? It was a woman who was a former prostitute, from whom demons had been delivered. She was given the privilege to be the first human being to lay eyes on the Risen Messiah!

One of the most remarkable woman of the New Testament is Mary, mother of Y'shua (Jesus). She became a faithful disciple who was with Him from the beginning to the end. In the upper room when the promised Holy Spirit power fell upon the apostles in the form of tongues of Fire, it also fell upon Mary. Women, who contributed to Y'shua's /Jesus' ministry, were at the crucifixion and the resurrection, as well as in the upper room, on the day of Pentecost.

The Book of Joel said the Holy Spirit is going to be poured out on **all** flesh, not just male flesh – all flesh.

Peter says that you are **all** priests in the Kingdom of God—serving in a Living Stone Tabernacle.

## **WOMEN APOSTLES:**

Did you know there were **women apostles** in the first century?

**Romans 16:7** Remember me to Andronicus and **Junias**, my tribal kinsmen and once my fellow prisoners. They are men held in high esteem among the apostles, who also were in Christ before I was.

Andronikus was a man; **Junias** was a **woman**.



They were both **apostles** in the early church and John Chrysotom,<sup>1</sup> one of the early church leaders, recognized that **Junias** was a woman and recorded this fact for the church to understand, namely that she was a great woman - a great apostle of God.

Paul **recognizes other women** in ministry:

**Romans 16:12** Greet those workers in the Lord, **Tryphaena** and **Tryphosa**. Greet my beloved **Persis**, who has worked hard in the Lord.

### WOMAN PROPHETESS - ANNA

**Luke 2:36** And there was also a **prophetess, Anna**, the daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Asher. She was very old, having lived with her husband seven years from her maidenhood.

So, we have a woman apostle and we have a woman prophet. God calls women to be apostles. God calls women in the prophetic office.

### WOMAN PREACHER - ANNA

**Luke 2:37-38** And as a widow even for eighty-four years. She did not go out from the temple enclosure, but was worshiping night and day with fasting and prayer. 38 And she too came up at that same hour, and she returned thanks to God and **talked of [Jesus] to all** who were looking for the redemption (deliverance) of Jerusalem.

When we read this we think of this little elderly lady talking to 2 or 3 people about redemption. But the word spoken of here in translation, is **preach**.

**Mark 2:2** And so many people gathered together there that there was no longer room [for them], not even around the door; and **He was discussing the Word**.

We see in both these scriptures that whatever Y'shua /Jesus did, Anna was also doing – it is exactly the same Greek word.

**Acts 8:25** Now when [the apostles] had borne their testimony and **preached** the message of the Lord, they went back to Jerusalem, proclaiming the glad tidings (Gospel) to many villages of the Samaritans [on the way].

Here we have Peter and John and they were ministering the Word of the Lord - the same Greek word is used as in the scriptures above. Whatever Peter and John was doing, Anna was doing.

**Luke 2: 38b** And she too came up at that same hour, and she returned thanks to God and **talked of [Jesus] to all** who were looking for the redemption (deliverance) of Jerusalem.

She pulled up a podium and began to **preach** to all of them that Christ has come, because they had just brought Y'shua (Jesus) in to be circumcised.

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<sup>1</sup> <http://dce.oca.org/assets/templates/bulletin.cfm?mode=html&id=24>

She preached to all those who were looking for redemption.

### The Woman at the Well



This verse has always been in the Bible but our mindset has blinded our eyes

**John 4:22, 25-26** You [Samaritans] do not know what you are worshiping [you worship what you do not comprehend]. We do know what we are worshiping [we worship what we have knowledge of and understand], for [after all] salvation comes from [among] the Jews.

25 The woman said to Him, I know that Messiah is coming, He Who is called the Christ (the Anointed One); and when He arrives, He will tell us everything we need to

know and make it clear to us. 26 Jesus said to her, I Who now speak

with you am He.

Y'shua /Jesus didn't tell people who He was. He always said, "I am the Son of man." But to this woman He said, "**I am the Messiah**". He said this to encourage her ministry, because look what she does.

PAUL specifically mentions a number if women who headed up groups in their homes.

**Acts 16:15** One who heard us was a woman named **Lydia**, from the city of Thyatira, a seller of purple goods, who was a worshiper of God. The Lord opened her heart to pay attention to what was said by Paul. And after she was baptized, and her household as well, she urged us, saying, "If you have judged me to be faithful to the Lord, come to my house and stay." And she prevailed upon us.

**Colossians 4:15** Give my greetings to the brothers at Laodicea, and to **Nympha** and the church in her house.

**Romans 16:1** I commend to you our sister **Phoebe**, a servant of the church at Cenchreae, that you may welcome her in the Lord in a way worthy of the saints, and help her in whatever she may need from you, for she has been a patron of many and of myself as well.

**1 Corinthians 16:19** The churches of Asia send you greetings. **Aquila** and **Priscilla**, together with the church in their house, send you hearty greetings in the Lord.

### A WOMAN EVANGELIST:

**John 4:39** Now numerous Samaritans from that town believed in and trusted in Him because of **what the woman said** when she declared and testified, He told me everything that I ever did.

This woman went back to Samaria and she **preached** to the whole city. What do evangelists do? They preach to whole cities. People believed because of what this woman said to them. Many in this city believed because of the word of this woman.

- Y'shua /Jesus chooses the **vessel**; we do not choose.
- Y'shua /Jesus chooses the **gift**; we do not choose.
- Y'shua /Jesus chooses the **call**; we do not choose.

This is part of God's Sovereignty. He put gifts in each one and if you put all of them together, you will have a whole Body and nothing shall be impossible

**John 4:42** And they told the **woman**, Now we no longer believe (trust, have faith) just because of what you said; for we have heard Him ourselves [personally], and we know that He truly is the Savior of the world, the Christ.

**Acts 18:26-28** He had been instructed in the way of the Lord, and burning with spiritual zeal, he spoke and taught diligently and accurately the things concerning Jesus, though he was acquainted only with the baptism of John. 26 He began to speak freely (fearlessly and boldly) in the synagogue; but when **Priscilla** and Aquila heard him, they took him with them and expounded to him the way of God more definitely and accurately. 27 And when [Apollos] wished to cross to Achaia (most of Greece), the brethren wrote to the disciples there, urging and encouraging them to accept and welcome him heartily. When he arrived, he proved a great help to those who through grace (God's unmerited favor and mercy) had believed (adhered to, trusted in, and relied on Christ as Lord and Savior). 28 For with great power he refuted the Jews in public [discussions], showing and proving by the Scriptures that Jesus is the Christ (the Messiah).

If you're ever going to grow in your life in ministry, you're going to have to respect the leadership God places over you because God does things sovereignly. The WORD is clear – it is only people who have wisdom that can be leaders. And we respect them because their teaching will be sound because they have wisdom. There is no authority in an unwise man / woman.

**Genesis 1:26** God said, Let Us [Father, Son, and Holy Spirit] make mankind in Our image, after Our likeness, and **let them have complete authority** over the fish of the sea, the birds of the air, the [tame] beasts, and over all of the earth, and over everything that creeps upon the earth.

Let us note another example of **women evangelists**:

**Philippians 4:2-3** I entreat **Euodia** and I entreat **Syntyche** to agree in the Lord. Yes, I ask you also, true companion, **help these women**, who have labored side by side with me in the gospel together with Clement and the rest of my fellow workers, whose names are in the Book of Life.

## PAUL'S WORD ON WOMEN

Well, what about the things Paul wrote about women?

First of all, we've misunderstood Paul because we haven't appreciated the Jewish culture from which he comes.

Secondly, we haven't understood the pagan context into which he's ministering. When he talks about women in Corinth, he says the women must keep silent.

There are some historical factors that required him to say this: The women in Corinth were the **pagan priestesses** and a part of the religious ritual was to give out with **wild shrieks and uncontrolled shouting**. These women come from a culture in which the males are passive and women have to take the leadership role in the pagan temple, being **cult prostitutes**. And they're out of order! So, Paul says to them, hush up! He doesn't say, "*don't say anything*", because just before that he says women can prophesy just like men. But, he's basically saying, be quiet; don't be out of order in the church.

We haven't understood the historical, pagan context in which Paul writes to Timothy when he says, "*I don't permit women to have authority*". If you do a careful study of the Greek and also the context, you'll learn that there were some women who were exercising a domineering spirit. The words "exercise authority over" means "to dominate". These women were trying to exercise inappropriate authority and be the instructors of the men in inappropriate ways.

**Paul celebrates the role of women** and many women contributed to his ministry. In Romans 16 he lists, by name, ministers that he wants to send personal greetings to and more than one third of the list consists of women.

**Phoebe**, in Greek, is called ***diakonas***, literally meaning **deacon**.

***Romans 16:1-2*** Now I introduce and commend to you our sister **Phoebe**, a **deaconess** of the church at Cenchreae, that you may receive her in the Lord, as saints ought to receive one another. And help her in whatever matter she may require assistance from you, for she has been a helper of many including myself.

Some Bibles don't translate this correctly.

These translators had an ecclesiastical authority behind them, which they were supporting and defending. For example, in **Acts 2** it says that 3000 were added *to the church* that day, which is an "incorrect translation". In the Greek the words "*in the church*" are not even there. These translators added these words because they represent the church at this point, a centuries-old ecclesiastical institution.

They also love to use the word **rule** for "let the men *rule* over the women"; instead of – "they have to be the "good *rulers*" of their house".

But this word in Greek is not the term for a ruler. In fact, this term for someone who is a ruler or a king is never used for a New Testament husband or minister. **The term here speaks of one who leads, stands before and goes before. "Follow me as I follow Christ" – that's a leader!**

This is what husbands ought to do: They are to lead their wives who voluntarily adapt themselves to them in love. There should be no domination. Men are to love their wives as Messiah loves the Church.

In **Romans 16:2** where Paul writes about **Phoebe**, she is called a **helper**, which is an incorrect translation. She was a patron, a **benefactor**, of the church. She held a superior social status and Paul devotes two verses to commend her. Paul commends **Prisca** (Priscilla). She's also talked about in **Acts 18:24-26**. In the Greek it says that **Priscilla** and Aquila **taught** Apollos, a brilliant man. Priscilla, a woman, taught!

In another translation of the Bible the order of Priscilla and Aquila was reversed, so that the man's name stood first. But this is not the way in was written in Greek, which is significant, because in Greek the man always went first. This demonstrates Priscilla's exceptional leadership.

In **Romans 16:7** Paul talks about Andronicus and Junias, two men. In the earliest text it is "**Junia**", not "Junias". It's only from the thirteenth century on that this name was changed. Why? Because Junia is a female name and Junias a male name. There's only one problem: Nowhere in the Greek literature of the ancient world is there a single instance of a man named Junias. **Paul, here, is commending a woman apostle!**

There are many others, **but the point is that women played vital roles and had dynamic ministries in Paul's church and the first church.** They fulfilled diverse functions and they were on par with male roles.

So, whether you have from the Hebrew scriptures prophetesses who were also mothers and wives, judges and spiritual leaders in Israel, or a single woman who is in leadership like **Miriam**, or a resistance leader like **Rahab** – **the women played vital, important roles to the community of Israel.**



# **PART C:**

## **UNDERSTANDING SUBMISSION - GOD'S WAY**

## PART C:

### UNDERSTANDING SUBMISSION - GOD'S WAY

#### FROM THE PHYSICAL TO THE SPIRITUAL

Paul tells us in:

**1 Corinthians 15:45-49** 45 So it is written [in Scripture], "The first man, Adam, became a living soul (an individual);" the last Adam (Christ) became a life-giving spirit [restoring the dead to life]. 46 However, the spiritual [the immortal life] is not first, but the physical [the mortal life]; then the spiritual. 47 The first man [Adam] is from the earth, earthy [made of dust]; the second Man [Christ, the Lord] is from heaven. 48 As is the earthly man [the man of dust], so are those who are of earth; and as is the heavenly [Man], so are those who are of heaven. 49 Just as we have borne the image of the earthly [the man of dust], [a]we will also bear the image of the heavenly [the Man of heaven].

We are expected to walk in the natural, in the physical things of this world, living a life in obedience to the Commandments - not legalistically - as a measure of whether we are on the right track or not.

We do this so that we can learn to interpret the meaning of these Commandments and transform the application thereof into a spiritual reality that will enable us to live and serve in the Tabernacle of Living Stones.

This implies that we need to understand the Biblical interpretation of the concept of submit that we can source from the Old Testament.

**I suggest that we build the case from three (3) sources.**

1.

**Exodus 2:18** ADONAI, God, said, "It isn't good that the person should be alone. I will make for him a **companion** suitable for **helping** him.

And it is in this verse that we find our first Biblical pattern:

The word **helper** = **ezer** and comes from two root words;

- TO SAVE
- TO BE STRONG.

(a) The word "**ezer**" is used in the following, and in each case God is seen as our = **Helper, the Warrior that fights for us..**

**Psalms 89:17** For You are the glory of their strength; by Your favor **our horn is exalted.**

**Psalms 124:8** Our help is in the name of the Lord, Who made heaven and earth.

**Deuteronomy 33:29** AMP “Happy and blessed are you, O Israel; Who is like you, a people saved by the Lord, The Shield of your help, And the Sword of your majesty! Your enemies will cringe before you, And you will tread on their high places [tramping down their idolatrous altars].”

**Exodus 18:4** The name of the other was **Eli‘ezer** [my God helps], “because the God of my father helped me **by rescuing** me from Pharaoh’s sword.”

(b) The word **Kenegdo** = **partner**, literally, the indication is that the woman stands “as if in front of him”

(1) From the substantive word **Ke-negdo** we get the word “**neged**” means:

- that which is conspicuous,
- in full view of,
- in front of

(2) the noun “**nagid**” means;

ruler or prince,

(2) and the verb “**nagad**” means:

to declare, tell, expound, reveal, announce, or go ahead.

(Is this not interesting—as there are many leaders who either do or would like to say that women should not be teachers/preachers—and if they understand this Hebrew word they would struggle to dismiss women in ministry)

The combination therefore reads something like this:

**“My Complementing / Corresponding Opposite.”**

The question one must ask is: are these concepts equal to, or complimentary to those raised in the New Testament?

**2. In both the stories of Ruth and Proverbs 31 - the woman is called “hayil” - woman of valour.**

Is this not also the sort of words that Paul uses when he calls all believers / people (**Ephesians 6**) to put on the whole amour of God?

Peter (**1 Peter 3:7**) speaks of “being heirs TOGETHER of the grace of life”

Paul (**Galatians 3:28**) speaks of “there is neither male / female, ALL are ONE, in Y’shua”

**3. In Proverbs 31: The virtuous wife**

- Has the heart of her husband safely trusted to her
- Is like a merchant ship that does business from far

- Provides food for the household
- Buys a field
- Acts as a merchant for the products that she makes
- Reaches out to the needy
- Opens her mouth in wisdom, and kindness
- Walks in strength, honour and her husband calls her blessed.

These attributes define a woman who ***has great capacity, has the authority of her husband to move and transact on her own*** - this is not the acts of someone that is “capitulating”.

## **MEN AND WOMEN - EQUAL BUT DIFFERENT.**

I think by now we can say that the translation - “**help-meet**” and the word **submit** have a pretty “POOR” reflection on what is described in other verses.

Mankind, as originally made, is divided into two - equal, but different. In fact, it is almost like a scale – without the other half you are out of balance.

### **The two halves reflect the whole.**

#### **Man:**

Consider the gifting - rational thinking, risk mitigation, planning, protection

Consider the calling to lay down your life for your spouse

Further consider the commandment to love unconditionally.

#### **Woman:**

Consider the gifting - to nurture, to foster relationships, emotional intelligence.

Consider the calling to respect your husband.

Why would we say that a woman is equal to a man?

Simply - God says its not good that he is alone. God therefore makes someone whose attributes are different, but whose strength is equal to the man.

**\*\*NUGGET!\*\*** True submission, in balance, is reflected in the harmony and the unity of the relationship. Conversely, if there is no unity, then there is no mutual submission.

## **BOUNDARIES TO SUBMISSION.**

### **(A) LET US SEE THIS BALANCE IN ACTION (no-one rules over the other)**

**1. Mary** yields to God without asking **Joseph** for permission - the story of the impregnation by the Holy Spirit of the Man Y'shua, without JOSEPH being informed at all.

**Luke 1:26-38** *Now in the sixth month [of Elizabeth's pregnancy] the angel Gabriel was sent from God to a city in Galilee called Nazareth, 27 to a virgin [a]betrothed to a man whose name was Joseph, a descendant of the house of David; and the virgin's name was Mary. 28 And coming to her, the angel said, "Greetings, favored one! The Lord is with you." 29 But she was greatly perplexed at what he said, and kept carefully considering what kind of greeting this was. 30 The angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. 31 Listen carefully: you will conceive in your womb and give birth to a son, and you shall name Him Jesus. 32 He will be great and eminent and will be called the Son of the Most High; and the Lord God will give Him the throne of His father David; 33 and He will reign over the house of Jacob (Israel) forever, and of His kingdom there shall be no end." 34 Mary said to the angel, "How will this be, since I am a virgin and have no intimacy with any man?" 35 Then the angel replied to her, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you [like a cloud]; for that reason the holy (pure, sinless) Child shall be called the Son of God. 36 And listen, even your relative Elizabeth has also conceived a son in her old age; and she who was called barren is now in her sixth month. 37 For with God nothing [is or ever] shall be impossible." 38 Then Mary said, "Behold, I am the servant of the Lord; may it be done to me according to your word." And the angel left her.*

**Matthew 1:18-25** *Now the birth of Jesus Christ was as follows: when His mother Mary had been betrothed to Joseph, before they came together she was found to be with child by [the power of] the Holy Spirit. 19 And Joseph her [promised] husband, being a just and righteous man and not wanting to expose her publicly to shame, planned to send her away and divorce her quietly. 20 But after he had considered this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, saying, "Joseph, descendant of David, do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife, for the Child who has been [b]conceived in her is of the Holy Spirit. 21 She will give birth to a Son, and you shall name Him Jesus (The Lord is salvation), for He will [c]save His people from their sins." 22 All this happened in order to fulfill what the Lord had spoken through the [d]prophet [Isaiah]: 23 "Behold, the [e]virgin shall be with child and give birth to a Son, and they shall call His name Immanuel"—which, when translated, means, "God with us." 24 Then Joseph awoke from his sleep and did as the angel of the Lord had commanded him, and he took Mary [to his home] as his wife, 25 but he kept her a virgin until she had given birth to a Son [her firstborn child]; and he named Him Jesus (The Lord is salvation).*

**2.** On the other hand, **Peter** tells us that the women of "old adorned" themselves in subjection to their husbands.

**1 Peter 3:5-6** *For in this way in former times the holy women, who hoped in God, used to adorn themselves, being submissive to their own husbands and adapting themselves to them; 6 just as Sarah obeyed Abraham [following him and having regard for him as head of their house], calling him lord. And you have become her daughters if you do what is right without being frightened by any fear [that is, being respectful toward your husband but not giving in to intimidation, nor allowing yourself to be led into sin, nor to be harmed].*

3. And again, we see ABRAHAM, being told by God to **listen to Sarah** in respect of the Hagar / Ismael event—while earlier she accepted his decision to leave the land of Ur and go to Canaan.

**Genesis 21:10-12** *Therefore she said to Abraham, “Drive out this maid and her son, for the son of this maid shall not be an heir with my son Isaac.” 11 The situation distressed Abraham greatly because of his son [Ishmael]. 12 God said to Abraham, “Do not let it distress you because of Ishmael and your maid; whatever Sarah tells you, listen to her and do what she asks, for your descendants will be named through Isaac.*

4. Again, we see that **Abigail**, disobeys her unbelieving husband - Nabal - and who helps David so that her whole family is saved.

See **1 Samuel 25:4-42**.

**1 Samuel 25:23-31** *When Abigail saw David, she hurried and dismounted from the donkey, and kneeled face downward before David and bowed down to the ground [in respect]. 24 Kneeling at his feet she said, “My lord, let the blame and guilt be on me alone. And please let your maidservant speak to you, and listen to the words of your maidservant. 25 **Please do not let my lord pay attention to this worthless man, Nabal, for as his name is, so is he. Nabal (fool) is his name and foolishness (stupidity) is with him; but I your maidservant did not see my lord’s young men whom you sent.** 26 So now, my lord, as the Lord lives, and as your soul lives, since the Lord has prevented you from shedding blood, and from avenging yourself by your own hand, now then let your enemies and those who seek to do evil to my lord, be as [self-destructive as] Nabal. 27 Now this gift, which your maidservant has brought my lord, let it be given to the young men who accompany and follow my lord. 28 Please forgive the transgression of your maidservant; for the Lord will certainly make my lord a secure and enduring house, because my lord is fighting the battles of the Lord, and evil will not be found in you all your days. 29 Should anyone rise up to pursue you and to seek your life, then the life of my lord will be bound in the [precious] bundle of the living with the Lord your God; but the lives of your enemies—those He will hurl out as from the center of a sling. 30 And it will happen when the Lord does for my lord according to all the good that He has spoken (promised) concerning you, and appoints you ruler over Israel, 31 that this [incident] will not cause grief or [bring] a troubled conscience to my lord, both by having shed blood without cause and by my lord having avenged himself. When the Lord deals well with my lord, then remember [with favor] your maidservant.”*

5. The woman **Rahab**, who moves in faith and saves her entire household—while the men in that household did nothing.

**Joshua 6:25** *So Joshua spared Rahab the prostitute, with her father’s household and everything that she had; and she has lived among Israel to this day, because she hid the messengers (scouts) whom Joshua sent to spy out Jericho.*

6. And finally, Paul tells us that we have to be careful of BOTH women and men who are busy with false teaching.

**2 Corinthians 11:2-4** *I am jealous for you with a godly jealousy because I have promised you to one husband, to present you as a pure virgin to Christ.*

*3 But I am afraid that, even as the serpent beguiled Eve by his cunning, your minds may be corrupted and led away from the simplicity of [your sincere and] pure devotion to Christ.  
4 For [you seem willing to allow it] if one comes and preaches another Jesus whom we have not preached, or if you receive a different spirit from the one you received, or a different gospel from the one you accepted. You tolerate all this beautifully [welcoming the deception].*

**1 Timothy 2:13-14** *For Adam was formed first [by God from the earth], then Eve; 14 and it was not Adam who was deceived, but the woman who was led astray and fell into sin.*

## **(B) SUBMISSION TO TRUE ELDERS.**

There is a misperception that any leaders of a Church's word "must" be accepted, and that their word should be absolute authority.

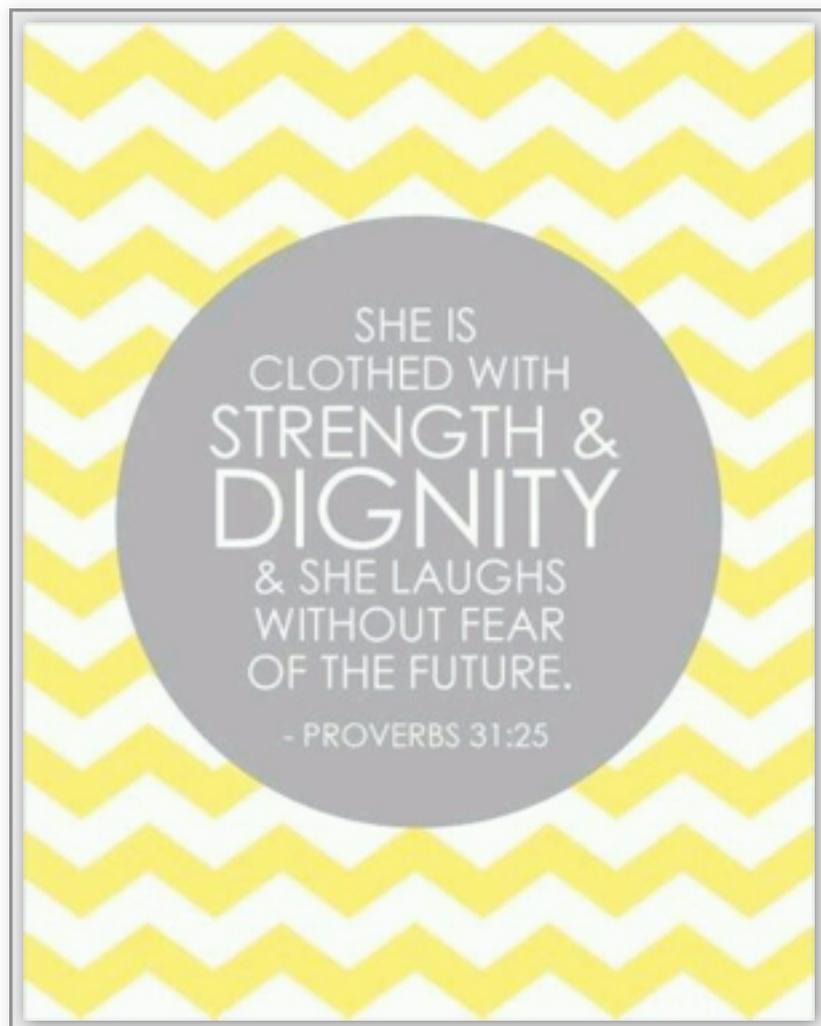
**Hebrews 13:17** *"Obey your leaders and submit to them, for they keep watch over your lives, as people who will have to render an account.*

This is not Biblical

- We must submit to those who are older
- We must submit to those who are knowledgeable
- We must submit to the extent that their word / knowledge reflects the Bible accurately—nothing else—to those who feed the flock - their authority is simply in teaching the WORD in Spirit and Truth.

**1 Peter 5:1-2** *Therefore, I strongly urge the elders among you [pastors, spiritual leaders of the church], as a fellow elder and as an eyewitness [called to testify] of the sufferings of Christ, as well as one who shares in the glory that is to be revealed: 2 shepherd and guide and protect the flock of God among you, exercising oversight not under compulsion, but voluntarily, according to the will of God; and not [motivated] for shameful gain, but with wholehearted enthusiasm.*

*AMEN!!*





# *The Priestly Blessing ...*

*Numbers 6:24-26*

“<sup>24</sup> The LORD bless thee, and keep thee: <sup>25</sup> The LORD make his face shine upon thee, and be gracious unto thee: <sup>26</sup> The LORD lift up his countenance upon thee, and give thee peace.”

# *The Priestly Blessing ...*

Hebraic Translation<sup>2</sup>

"YHVH will kneel before you presenting gifts, and He will guard you with a hedge of protection, YHVH will illuminate the wholeness of His Being toward you, bringing order, and He will provide you with love, sustenance, and friendship, YHVH will lift up the wholeness of His Being and look upon you, and He will set in place all you need to be whole and complete."

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<sup>2</sup> Translation by Jeff A. Benner, for more information, please see [http://www.ancient-hebrew.org/12\\_blessing.html](http://www.ancient-hebrew.org/12_blessing.html)

# The Priestly Blessing<sup>1</sup>

יְבָרֶכְךָ יְהוָה וַיִּשְׁמְרֶךָ:

and may he guard you the LORD may he bless you

May the LORD<sup>2</sup> bless you<sup>3</sup> and keep you<sup>4</sup>

יָאֵר יְהוָה פָּנָיו אֵלֶיךָ וַיַּחַנְךָ:

and show you favor on you his face the LORD May he shine

May the LORD make His face<sup>5</sup> shine<sup>6</sup> upon you and be gracious<sup>7</sup> to you

יִשָּׂא יְהוָה פָּנָיו אֵלֶיךָ וַיִּשֶׂם לְךָ שְׁלוֹם:

peace for you and establish on you his face the LORD may he lift up

May the LORD lift up<sup>8</sup> his face to you and give you peace<sup>9</sup>

<sup>1</sup> This blessing is (ritually) recited (by the kohanim) during synagogue services during *Nesiat Kapayim* ("the Raising of the Hands"), though it is also recited over children on Friday night before the start of the Shabbat meal or as a bedtime blessing.

<sup>2</sup> The name *YHVH* (יהוה) represents God's attributes of love and mercy (מִדַּת הַרַחֲמִים), in contradistinction to the name *Elohim* (אֱלֹהִים), which represents God's attribute of justice and power as our Creator.

<sup>3</sup> בְּרַכָּה (*b'rachah*). Jewish tradition considers this both material and spiritual prosperity. Pirkei Avot 3:15 says, "If there is no flour, there is no Torah," by which is meant that material benefits are intended to help you pursue study of Torah. The first occurrence of the word "blessing" in the Scriptures pertains to *pru urvu* (פְּרוּ וּרְבוּ), "be fruitful and multiply" (Gen. 1:22).

<sup>4</sup> שָׁמַר (*shamar*): To guard, protect, heed, as in the exercise of diligent care. Only God has the power to secure the conferred blessing and keep it from turning sour or from fading away.

<sup>5</sup> The word for "face" (פָּנִים) is plural with the 3rd person singular ending. It is considered metaphorical since God is incorporeal. The plural form is thought by some to indicate God's revealed and hidden attributes in creation.

<sup>6</sup> The hiphil verb (יָאֵר) comes from the word "light" (אֹר), and is thought to refer to God's wisdom. "May God enlighten you" with His wisdom, i.e., the Divine Light that preceded the work of creation (Gen. 1:3).

<sup>7</sup> May God grant you grace or favor (חֵן), i.e., to understand the "breadth and length and height and depth" of God's love (Eph. 3:18). Grace refers to the bestowal of an undeserved gift. The blessing is bestowed even though unearned or unmerited.

<sup>8</sup> Since one's face is an indication of the heart's attitude, Rashi says that this means God will suppress His anger by "looking at you" (if God is angry at you, He "turns His face away" and refuses to admit your presence). The "lifting of face" also pictures God lifting you up as a father might lift up his child in joy. The "showing of face" indicates spiritual intimacy.

<sup>9</sup> All of the other blessings are useless without the establishment of inner peace, and therefore it is the seal of the blessing. Shalom (שְׁלוֹם) is not simply the absence of strife, but a balance and harmony between the finite and infinite, the temporal and the eternal, the material and the spiritual realms. Shalom is a gift from Sar Shalom (שַׂר שְׁלוֹם), the Prince of Peace.