

Let them be silent

Should women teach? The answer is yes; but...

It's strange for someone who believes in absolutes to answer a question with a conditional. The problem is not in the answer, but rather in the interpretation. Should a woman be allowed to teach, prophecy, or generally proclaim the word? Absolutely.

However, there is a key verse given to us in the New Testament, that is carried out in the character of God;

“And let all things be done decently and in order.” – I Corinthians 14:40

God is a God of infinite Order. All things in this universe are orderly in their design and operation. The scriptures describe a God with purpose, order and efficiency. Everything has a place and a reason for being.

The quandary comes when examining the controversial verse;

“Let your women keep silence in the churches: for it is not permitted unto them to speak; but they are commanded to be under obedience, as also saith the law.” – I Corinthians 14:34

I've heard all sorts of reasonings on this subject. Most recently I listened to a youtube broadcast given by a woman who, other than this one topic, spoke with profundity and accuracy about a great many subjects. I say other than this one topic, because when she reached this topic, she made some huge logical mistakes; mistakes which are unfortunately all too common.

The doctrine of emancipation is not one that exists within the Bible. The doctrine of salvation is found there. When the Bible proclaims that “there is no respect of persons with God.” (Romans 2:11) it means that we are all equal in the eyes of God, in that we are all equally below God. This does not mean that each person is treated the same, or that each person has the same attributes. Most especially it does not even come close to inferring that we are all equal to each other.

Is there such thing as equality among humans?

How can one compare the job of the ditch digger to the lawyer? Without the ditch digger, the lawyer would have no water, no power, no sewage removal. Without the lawyer the ditch digger would have no defense within the legal system. The position of ditch digger does not require great intellect, but rather great strength and a bit of cleverness. The position of lawyer requires a high intellect and a good deal of verbal acumen. Which one is more important?

Neither. They are both equally important to the whole of society. Yet, by design of our enemy we have fallen prey to the one thing that our forefathers sought to escape by making a home in this new land; class warfare.

One aspect of that warfare is the struggle for “women’s equality.” I can’t imagine a more specious cause. The right for women to vote came from the same source which gave us the Federal Reserve Act and the Social Security Act; Woodrow Wilson who was one of the most deceitful men ever to hold the office of President.

Where does the idea of “equality” really come from?

The idea of equality comes from the idea of the Rule of Law. Within the law, each person is condemned equally. Because of this, each person should be treated equally when they transgress against the law. The misunderstanding comes when you believe that law was designed to grant freedoms. The law was always designed to take freedoms away.

In a society that believes the basic rights of mankind are granted by God, it is God that secures all human rights. If a man were to fall from the sky into the middle of nowhere, that man by his nature would already have freedom to do anything his conscience allowed him to do. The basic rights are life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness.

In other words, mankind is free to do anything, so long as those things are favored by God. Therefore, all laws passed by mankind are restrictions, revocations of those freedoms. The law is a slave master, not an emancipator. The idea that the law grants freedoms exists only in the twisted and corrupt concepts of Socialism.

In a Socialist state all freedoms are secured by the state. Therefore, you have no rights unless the state decides to pass a law granting that right. This is a fundamental difference in the ideas of Satan, and the precepts of God. Satan seeks to enslave. God seeks to free.

But, what of the restrictions on what women could, and could not do? Our founders clearly discriminated between men and women, between poor and wealthy. How is this equality?

First and foremost the idea of discrimination is a false concept. Humans, as a rule, discriminate between people. Each of us chooses who we will and will not like every single day. Each of us chooses who we will and will not associate with from moment to moment. The difference is the criteria we use to discriminate. It is therefore not a question of whether or not we do discriminate, but rather upon what basis we discriminate.

Unlike any other nation on this planet, there was no class system in America. The very notion of the “American Dream” is a basic Christian principle. A poor man, *in the eyes of the law*, is supposed to be equal to a rich man. They both have the rights that God granted them, and at one time everyone agreed that the government had no right to intercede between a man and his rights. This left success, or failure, in the hands of the individual. Those who chose to succeed did so. Those who failed had no one to blame but themselves. This is how a poor Abraham Lincoln could rise to become president of the United States. In a welfare society this thought is abolished. Because it is society’s job to provide, it’s society’s fault when one fails.

But, what of the role of women? They were not allowed to vote. They were not allowed employment. They were seemingly not allowed a voice in society. How is this equality within the law?

The original voting system was not one person, one vote. The original intent of the founding fathers was to grant votes to those persons who had a vested interest in the well being of the nation. Men, who paid taxes and owned land. According to the law, the treatment was equal.

It is a false concept that the Rule of Law states that all laws must treat all persons equally. The truth is that all people must be treated equally within the law. This in no way infers that each and every law must take into account the needs or desires of every person. In fact, if laws must cater to every individual, then the law itself becomes useless, because the persons who the law would condemn would necessarily have to be accommodated by the law.

Today within A.C.O.R.N. we are witnessing the results of the one person, one vote paradigm. Today with our court system we are seeing the results of the twisting of the Rule of Law. Aristotle said it best;

"For tyranny is a kind of monarchy which has in view the interest of the monarch only; oligarchy has in view the interest of the wealthy; democracy, of the needy: none of them the common good of all. Tyranny, as I was saying, is monarchy exercising the rule of a master over the political society; oligarchy is when men of property have the government in their hands; democracy, the opposite, when the indigent, and not the men of property, are the rulers." – Aristotle Book III.

When the indigent are given the vote to rule, they will vote not with their minds, or their intellect, but with their stomachs. Democracy, pure democracy, is nothing more than mob rule. Those who have property and wealth have it for a reason. Aristotle knew this simple truth. Our founding fathers learned that principle from him.

Conversely, men of property who have virtue will take the time to study the best interests of their self, and their holdings. The key is not in the wealth, or the property, but rather the virtue. This simple thought is the one thing Aristotle did not have access to; the Christian character.

This nation was founded upon the basis and meaning of the Christian Character. Without this basic understanding, our nation's government is a complete farce. Today we have proved this thesis. Men without the Christian character have taken over control of this government and we are in shambles. Socialist ideals failed miserably in Russia, in Germany, in Italy, and today they are failing in France and Great Britain.

Our founding fathers knew this. They had the example of the French Revolution, which in itself was a complete failure. The rise of Napoleon proved the basic flaws of a humanist, secular revolution. The men who founded this nation envisioned a golden age of humanity, where God, through the Christ, would reign over the hearts and minds of men. To them, Christianity was on the rise in the world. But, where ever God works, Satan is sure to follow.

So what were these people thinking?

According to the Bible, women are to subject themselves to their husbands. In turn, husbands are commanded to act in the best interests of their wives. For this reason the founding fathers of this nation were clear in their decision to allow only men

to vote in the public forum. Within the man of virtue is the express desire to honor his wife as the Christ honored the Church; with his very life if necessary.

It is not possible for a man to dishonor his wife and remain a Christian.

Did this structure keep women from influencing the voting process? No. It didn't. In the Christian model of marriage, "the two shall become one."¹ In a letter to his wife, John Adams writes "Oh my dear girl, I thank heaven that another fortnight will restore you to me. But you who have always softened and warmed my heart shall restore my benevolence. You shall polish and refine my sentiments of life."

John Adams, along with every good man of Christian conscience, understood that his wife was a valuable personal being with intellect and reason. He understood that his life was enriched far beyond his measure simply because he had been graciously given the gift of companionship with his caring, adoring wife.

In a much more practical sense, a woman could just as easily vote as a man. She simply would cast her ballot in the boudoir. This principle, once again, only works with a man of virtue. A man of low character would simply escape this influence through philandering.

In a letter back to him, Abigail Adams writes "In the new code of laws which I suppose it will be necessary for you to make, I desire you would remember the ladies and be more favorable to them than your ancestors. Do not put such unlimited power into the hands of husbands."

Her purpose? Not to "secure the rights of women," but rather to avoid the oppression of tyrants. In Roman society, in many European societies women were treated as chattel. They were property to be disposed of by the husband. This was never the intent of the founders of this nation. Yet, she, like every other woman of good conscience understood the failings of men, and their ability for great evil². She was cautioning her husband to remember his "values" and to attempt to instill those values into the Constitution.

The women of the Revolution gave of their lives just as much as their husbands. They are no less to thank for the establishment of this nation. Yet, they are not the agents of action, but rather the agents of thought, support, and rational intellect. They served a distinct purpose within the greater whole.

The men who created the Constitution tried their best to frame a document which was limited in scope and broad in its interpretation. They knew the careful line that they were walking. Gouverneur Morris, Revolutionary officer, member of the Continental Congress and signer of the Constitution stated:

"There must be religion. When that ligament is torn, society is disjointed and its members perish... [T]he most important of all lessons is the denunciation of ruin to every state that rejects the precepts of religion."³

¹ Genesis 2:24

² Jeremiah 17:9

³ Collections of the New York Historical Society for the Year 1821 (New York: E. Bliss and E. White, 1821), pp. 32, 34, from "An Inaugural Discourse Delivered Before the New York Historical Society by the Honorable Gouverneur Morris, (President,) 4th September, 1816.

The failure of this system comes with those who would be users. Those men of low character who strive to gain through greed and corruption, like those men who kept slaves. Men who choose to ignore God. These rotten apples treated other human beings as animals and for that they created a backlash which destroyed the one thing that had worked against Aristotle's objections. Patrick Henry knew all too well that these sorts of actions would bring about the destruction of not just this nation, but people as well:

"Righteousness alone can exalt America as a nation. Whoever thou art, remember this; and in thy sphere practice virtue thyself, and encourage it in others.⁴"

And again James Madison said:

"A watchful eye must be kept on ourselves lest, while we are building ideal monuments of renown and bliss here, we neglect to have our names enrolled in the Annals of Heaven.⁵"

Our nation was founded on the ideal that law, natural law, comes from God and God alone. We are all equal in the eyes of God, in that we are all equal before the law. We have all been judged, and found wanting⁶. "But we know that whatever the Law says, it speaks to those within the Law, so that every mouth may be stopped, and all the world be under judgment to God." – Romans 3:19

All systems, all things, fall under the authority of God, and His designed order. We are not the authors of this order, or for that matter, any order. We merely discover the order that had already existed. To live in balance with our fellow humans, and in balance with our environment, there is only one prescription; God's perfect Order.

Those men who choose not to live within the law do so to the ruin of not only themselves, but to others. However, within the law, we are each a unique part of the community, made from our own diversity. "For even as we have many members in one body, but all members do not have the same function, so we the many are one body in Christ, and each one members of one another," (Romans 12:4,5)

We are all of "one body," yet we are not all the same, nor are we all equal, except for the fact that we are all equal before the Law, and we are all equally afforded the opportunity to obey that law. We are all equal in God's grace, and we are all equally afforded the gift of salvation within that grace. We are all equal in God's love, and we are all equally offered peace and joy within that love.

Nowhere else are we guaranteed any equality. In fact, Paul admonishes slaves to remain slaves, that rulers are established by God, and that the Apostles have

⁴ Patrick Henry, Patrick Henry: Life, Correspondence and Speeches, William Wirt Henry, editor (New York: Charles Scribner's Sons, 1891), Vol. II, p. 592, to Archibald Blair on January 8, 1799.

⁵ James Madison, Letters and Other Writings of James Madison (New York: R. Worthington, 1884), Vol. I, pp. 5-6, to William Bradford on November 9, 1772.

⁶ Romans 3:23

authority over the other believers. In fact, we are not all equal in the judgements against us:

“But he that knew not, and did commit things worthy of stripes, shall be beaten with few stripes. For unto whomsoever much is given, of him shall be much required: and to whom men have committed much, of him they will ask the more.” – Luke 12:48

Thus we arrive at our original topic;

“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. And unto Adam he said, Because thou hast hearkened unto the voice of thy wife, and hast eaten of the tree, of which I commanded thee, saying, Thou shalt not eat of it: cursed is the ground for thy sake; in sorrow shalt thou eat of it all the days of thy life; Thorns also and thistles shall it bring forth to thee; and thou shalt eat the herb of the field; In the sweat of thy face shalt thou eat bread, till thou return unto the ground; for out of it wast thou taken: for dust thou art, and unto dust shalt thou return.” – Genesis 3:16-19

“Let your women keep silence in the churches: for it is not permitted unto them to speak; but they are commanded to be under obedience, as also saith the law.” – I Corinthians 14:34

“Let the woman learn in silence with all subjection. But I suffer not a woman to teach, nor to usurp authority over the man, 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.” – I Timothy 2:11-14

“Wives, submit yourselves unto your own husbands, as unto the Lord. For the husband is the head of the wife, even as Christ is the head of the church: and he is the saviour of the body. Therefore as the church is subject unto Christ, so let the wives be to their own husbands in every thing. Husbands, love your wives, even as Christ also loved the church, and gave himself for it; That he might sanctify and cleanse it with the washing of water by the word, That he might present it to himself a glorious church, not having spot, or wrinkle, or any such thing; but that it should be holy and without blemish. So ought men to love their wives as their own bodies. He that loveth his wife loveth himself. For no man ever yet hated his own flesh; but nourisheth and cherisheth it, even as the Lord the church:” – Ephesians 5:22-29

From this point forward I am going to destroy the deception that allows women to be preachers in the Church and establish the fact that women are just as important as prophets, teachers, deacons and disciples. Both of these facts can, and do coincide with each other within God's Order.

When arguing for the authority of women as preachers, the first argument goes to the fact that there were, throughout history, women who were prophets, teachers and

deacons. The first of these cases always quoted is Deborah, who was both a prophetess and a judge.

First let's discuss the position of judge. To be a judge is to adjudicate. The dictionary tells us that this word means to "make a formal judgement or decision about a problem or disputed matter." On what - in Israelite culture - did one base their judgements? The answer is simple; the Law. Who is the giver of the Law to the Israelites? The answer to that is also simple; God. Who then, is the authority; the judge, or God?

In God's plan for the Israelites, there was no government. There was God, His Law, and the people. There was, however a priest hood, a holy order, and a few select people who's duty it was to discern the answer to disputes based upon God's Law. The Judges of the early Israelites were not political, or governmental rulers of any kind. They held no authority over men. They simply adjudicated disputes based upon the authority of God, and his Law.

Deborah, after having been described as a judge, is then described as doing something very important. "she sent and called Barak the son of Abinoam out of Kedeshnaphtali, and said unto him, 'hath not the Lord God of Israel commanded, saying'..." She called for a man to lead.

When that man failed in his responsibility, she told him that "what thou takest shall not be for thine honor; for the Lord shall sell Sisera into the hand of a woman." This is not a praise, or an "honor." This is a slap in the face. Why? Let's examine the first sin.

In Genesis 3 we are told that the serpent tempted Eve, and that she then "also gave to her husband with her..." The man was "with her." He was standing right next to her, watching her test the fruit. Yet, he remained silent. He was the one who had received the order from God to not eat the fruit. He was the one who had been given stewardship over the earth. He was the one who's responsibility it was to care for, love and cherish the woman that God had made for him. Instead he stood by and watched her do something that he had to have known would cause her immense harm.

Deborah was telling Barak that he was a wimp because Deborah had already told Barak that God had given him the authority to do battle against the enemies of Israel. Barak, instead of trusting in the authority of God, asked Deborah to go with him to battle. His lack of faith in God caused him to transgress against God by committing the very same sin that Adam committed in the Garden of Eden; complicity towards sin through willful inaction. For this reason God gave the victory of the battle not to Barak, but to Jael, the wife of Heber the Kenite.

This is hardly an endorsement for women being in control. Neither is it an endorsement for women being allowed to speak in the Church.

The second most popular example of women prophets is Huldah in II Kings 22 and II Chronicles 34. Huldah, the wife of Shallum was visited by a group of priests on the orders of the king, Josiah. Once again we find that these priests had failed in their duties. They were sent to account for the money in the temple, and happened to find the book of the Law. They read it, and it is obvious that these men had not read it before this time. This is made clear by the words of the prophetess herself;

“Thus saith the LORD, Behold, I will bring evil upon this place, and upon the inhabitants thereof, even all the words of the book which the king of Judah hath read: *Because they have forsaken me*, and have burned incense unto other gods, that they might provoke me to anger with all the works of their hands; therefore my wrath shall be kindled against this place, and shall not be quenched.” – II Kings 22:16,17

Once again God sent a woman to do a man’s work, because men had failed in their responsibility. How can I back this up? Simple:

As for my people, children are their oppressors, and women rule over them. O my people, they which lead thee cause thee to err, and destroy the way of thy paths. – Isaiah 3:12

The next example given is Anna, the daughter of Phanuel. Again we find that Philip the evangelist had two unmarried daughters who prophesied. In fact Paul himself says that women prophesy;

“But every woman that prayeth or prophesieth with her head uncovered dishonoureth her head: for that is even all one as if she were shaven.” – I Corinthians 11:5

How then do we justify these writings? The answer is simple, elegant, perfect. While Paul did say that women prophesy, he was clear to state the conditions under which they should prophesy. This simple fact remains clear within all of Paul’s writings. No greater example can be found than when he discusses the gifts of the Spirit and specifically speaking in tongues⁷.

Did you know that the Bible describes wisdom as a woman?

“Wisdom crieth without; she uttereth her voice in the streets:” – Proverbs 1:20

“Wisdom hath builded her house, she hath hewn out her seven pillars:” – Proverbs 9:1

“She openeth her mouth with wisdom; and in her tongue is the law of kindness.” – Proverbs 31:26

The Romans made this metaphor into a personification; Justitia. The Greeks called her Themis and Dike. The modern interpretation of Lady Justice incorporates Fortuna (luck), Tyche (fate), and Nemesis (vengance); all of them women. The original reference for these personifications of gods comes from the metaphor described within the wisdom of Solomon, which was in turn given him by God.

The source of wisdom is women. The woman was designed as mans’ “helpmeet,” or his fitting partner. Where men fail, women excel. Where women fail, men excel. This is the single answer to the issue of whether or not women should speak in the Church.

⁷ I Corinthians 13

God's Order is established in that He created man first, then created woman. Paul states this very clearly in I Timothy. We must submit ourselves to God's Order.

God created the man to do, and the woman to be. Because the man did not do, and the woman ceased to be, God placed a curse on both men and women so that they had no choice but to remember. This infers that before the curse, before the fall, there was a condition that existed that does not exist today.

Have you ever thought to ask yourself what that condition might have been? The answer lies in the definition of wisdom. God's Order is established in that He created man first, then created woman. Paul states this very clearly in I Timothy. We must submit ourselves to God's Order.

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When God created, he placed an order to things. First the plants, then the fish and birds, then the animals and creeping things, then finally man. When man was created God immediately showed him the animals and the plants. By showing the man these things, God showed him that something was missing; community.

The woman became part of the human community. This is why there is marriage and family as the basis to all society. But, aside from that the condition of the woman before the fall was to be the wisdom of the man as a reflection of a much greater meaning...

The essence of God in humanity.

God's very essence is community in diversity. The Father loves the Son, the Son loves the Spirit, the Spirit serves the Son and the Father, and so on. The man was created "in His own image, in the image of God created He him; male and female created He them."⁸ Was man made in the physical image of God? Clearly not. Man was made to reflect of God, as are all things which are created.

Children are to "Honor your father and your mother..."⁹ This is the image of the Son. The wife is the comforter, the mediator. She is the image of the Spirit. The man is the causal action, the worker of justice and vengeance. He is the image of the Father. This picture is an intentional, physical manifestation of a metaphoric reference to the essence of the Trinity. It is a reflection of the very nature of God himself.

This is what we see described by Paul when he tells us that the wife must submit herself to her husband, and that the husband should love his wife "as Christ loves the Church." This is also why it is written that "the two shall become one." Because our God is One God, in three persons. This is also why we are constantly admonished not to

⁸ Genesis 1:27

⁹ Exodus 20:12

“grieve the children of men,¹⁰” but also that we should “bring them up in the discipline and admonition of the Lord.¹¹”

Within each person there is mind, body and soul. Within each family there is father, children and wife. Within every community there is judge, administrator, and executor. These principles were well known, and well documented by the founding fathers of this nation. Each has a purpose, a place and a meaning.

What is the role of the Spirit?

“And likewise the Spirit also joins in to help our weakness. For we do not know what we should pray as we ought, but the Spirit Himself pleads our case for us with groanings that cannot be uttered. But the One searching the hearts knows what is in the mind of the Spirit, because he intercedes for the saints according to God.” – Romans 8:26,27

As God is One, so should we be one with each other. This is why God says “He hates sending away...¹²” It destroys the Order and image that God designed. Polygamy is not a blessing from God, it is the curse of men. It is an aberration of the will of God. It’s sole purpose is to fulfill a desire which God proclaims specifically that we should avoid at all costs;

“Flee fornication. Every sin that a man doeth is without the body; but he that committeth fornication sinneth against his own body.” – I Corinthians 6:18

Polygamy is simply a way to skirt around the mandate of the law¹³. Though at one time David may have been a “man after [God’s] own heart¹⁴” when he was young, it is certain that as the temptations of power overwhelmed him he began to fail.

Women are the comforters of the world, they “join in to help our weakness.” This picture is just one facet to the many complexities of creation.

Men are doers. This is clear in the Bible, but it is also clear in psychology and physiology. Men generally have more muscle mass, more size, more strength, and more drive. Men make decisions in a succession. Each decision is predicated upon a previous decision. There is no action without decision, and each decision, when it is passed, cannot be redressed except by another decision.

Women are. This is also clear in the Bible, in psychology and in physiology. Women are particularly adept at managing repetitious tasks and minding details. Women think more, talk more, feel more, and as a result, are generally more crafty if not more intelligent. Women do things not as a means to an end, but as an end in and of

¹⁰ Lamentations 3:33

¹¹ Ephesians 6:4

¹² Malachi 2:14-16

¹³ Exodus 20:14

¹⁴ I Samuel 13:13,14

itself. Each task is simply a part of all things and is not necessarily a step in any particular direction.

Men and women who deny their nature are miserable. The world has taught us that women are doers and thinkers. The world has taught us that men are not doers, but thinkers. The world has taught many stupid things. Why should we start believing them now?

Through speech women learn from other women. Through interaction women gain a knowledge of feelings, events, times and places that men will never, ever grasp. God designed women to be the wisdom that drives the actions of men. For this reason God demands that women speak out in their home, in the market, in their community. Synergistically the two become one whole, reinforcing the message of the gospel to all people with grace, dignity and solidarity. Disrupt this order and you destroy the ability for whole thought.

A woman remaining silent in the church becomes a practicality. They have the opportunity to soak in the words that are being said. If they speak, then they are no longer listening. If they don't listen, then how can they turn those words into thoughts? If they don't think, then how can they temper their husband's actions with the wisdom they have gained?

The greatest expression of respect a woman can give is to listen and understand. When women listen and understand it becomes a part of who they are. Speaking, to a woman, is a method of processing information, not assimilating information. Women need to pick one day a week to simply give it a rest. To soak in rather than give out.

Conversely, the greatest expression of love a man can give is his actions. When a man gives his time, his effort and his strength to any endeavor, be it physical, emotional, or mental in nature, he is attempting to prove the desire of his heart. Men process information and turn it into actions, they assimilate through expression. Men need one day a week to give themselves a rest. Men need to vent out rather than soak in.

All of this is so that after having received proper counsel, the man can go to the Church and *do*, so that everything can be done "decently, and in order."

God's curse is a forced reminder, not a condemnation.

The curse God established to remind us of His perfect Order is that the woman's "desire shall be for your husband; and he shall rule over you." His curse for men is that "by the sweat of your face you shall eat bread until your return to the ground."

The worship service, the collective gathering of the ekklesia ("those who are called according to his purpose" – Romans 8:28) is a remembrance of God. It is an attempt to come together in earthly form so that we, as a body, can express spiritual Truth. The worship service is a uniquely holy and profound event. In our modern times many take lightly the true essence of worship. This is a corruption of the worst kind. "So then, we should not sleep, as the rest also do, but we should watch and be sober." – I Thessalonians 5:6

Because our joining together in worship is a profound experience, we are to remind ourselves of our God in every way we can. The communion is a remembrance of the Christ's sacrifice for us. The baptism is a remembrance of our death to sin and

resurrection in Christ. The silence of women is a remembrance of the meaning of the original sin.

Paul reminds us of this when he speaks of the man being created first, and the woman after. This is God's Order. God created man and gave him stewardship over the garden. He made woman after and made her a complement to the man. The authority of God is clear. The man was given dominion. This is not tyranny.

Quite the contrary is true. The man is to treat his wife as if she were the "weaker vessel."¹⁵ This does not indicate that the woman is weak, or inferior. This is a reference to a fine vessel, made of china. It is delicate, sensitive, precious. In fact the verse goes on to say that the two should be "heirs together of the grace of life; that your prayers be not hindered." In other words, treat your wife poorly, and your prayers will be hindered.

This is simply orderly. When everyone speaks at once, all that is heard is cacophony. When one speaks for many what is heard is thunder. We have hundreds of hackneyed sayings that relate the concept of "too many cooks in the kitchen," and "too many chiefs and not enough indians." How can this point be made any more clear?

It was when the man failed in his responsibility that the sin in the garden took place. It was when the woman decided to usurp the authority of the man that the sin in the garden took place. Neither of these was a sin against each other, but a sin against God. Why? Because we are all equally **beneath** God.

Thus Paul tells us that the women should remain silent in the Church, and should ask their husbands at home for the sake of worship of God. We are commanded to "present [our] bodies a living sacrifice, holy, pleasing to God, which is your reasonable service."¹⁶ We are commanded to subjugate ourselves to the authority of God. We are told to give of ourselves to each other. This is a simple capitulation of self-will to the authority given by God.

The answer is simple. Should women teach? Yes. Women should never cease to profess God's word. Women should never be denied the gift of service to the King of Kings. Women should always be listened to when they speak the Truth. But, women should never usurp the authority of the man, and women should never speak in the Church.

Remember this; the only instances of women taking control were instances of men failing in their responsibility towards God. If a woman has to take over and profess God's word to the people, then the men have certainly failed in their responsibility.

¹⁵ | Peter 3:7

¹⁶ Romans 12:1