

THE WOMAN FACTOR

Galatians 3:26-28 KJV

For ye are all the children of God by faith in Christ Jesus. For as many of you as have been baptized into Christ have put on Christ. There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither bond nor free, THERE IS NEITHER MALE NOR FEMALE: FOR YE ARE ALL ONE IN CHRIST JESUS.

*in Christ we are one – God is not prejudice; He is not against women.

Gen 1:27 So God created MAN in His own image, in the image of God He created him; male and FEMALE He created them.

-God created women in His image, too!

*God does not contradict Himself – women are equal to men.

MAN: ruddy, i.e (to be exact) A HUMAN BEING (an individual or the species, mankind, etc.); another, + hypocrite, + common sort, person.

-man does NOT always mean MALE! It is important that we define whether God is referring to a human being or a male when we see the word "man" being used in Scripture.

*God's original intention was for the woman to be equal to the man – not subservient (compliant, docile, passive, submissive). Let's take a look at how things began.

-the garden was named the garden of Eden. Eden was a specific name ~

*Eden means DELIGHT.

DELIGHT: a high degree of gratification and extreme satisfaction.

-this was God's original intention for us – to live in a place of EXTREME SATISFACTION (approval, happiness, contentment, agreement) and a HIGH DEGREE OF GRATIFICATION (fulfillment, enjoyment, pleasure).

-this was His original intention for man and woman and this is His original intention for you and He wants to get you back to it!

-The garden was a place of delight - it was all about being happy, fulfilled, and enjoying your life!

-What were things like for Adam and Eve?! The curse brought about what SHOULDN'T be! And Jesus Christ came to set us free from that curse by becoming a curse for us!

Galatians 3:13 KJV Christ hath redeemed us from the curse of the law, being made a curse for us: for it is written, Cursed [is] every one that hangeth on a tree:

*Christ redeemed us! He purchased us with His blood and brought us back to His original intention for us – we do not have to live under the curse!

Luke 19:10 For the Son of Man came TO SEEK AND TO SAVE WHAT was lost.

-Jesus Christ came to seek and to save WHAT was lost – it doesn't say WHO here. So, think about it – WHAT was lost?!? WHAT needs restored? What does it mean to be restored?

RESTORES: to turn back (not necessarily with the idea of return to the starting point); break, build, circumcise, dig, DO ANYTHING, feed, lay down, lie down, lodge, make, rejoice, send, take, weep. Bring (again, back, home again), call [to mind], carry again (back), cease, deliver (again), GET [ONESELF] (BACK) AGAIN, recompense, recover, refresh, relieve, repent, requite (avenge yourself), rescue, restore, retrieve, (cause to, make to) return, reverse, reward, take back (off).

*If we look back to what changes took place for the woman in the garden because of sin entering the picture we can understand what Christ set us free from.

*what was lost for the woman?

Gen 3:16-19 To the woman He said, "I will greatly increase your pains in childbearing; with pain you will give birth to children. Your desire will be for your husband, and he will rule over you."

-having children with less pain

-being equal to man

*now her "desire" would be for her husband

DESIRE: stretching out after; a longing; yearning; wish for.

-the word translated as "desire" here is not a positive word. It is a picture of the woman trying to get in the position her husband has or achieve something that he has – she wishes for it without receiving it.

*in Christ we do not have to try to be equal to man – we do not need to fight for our equality! When sin entered the world women suffered loss – BUT Christ came so that we could get back what is rightfully ours in Him!

*because of man and his misinterpretation of Scripture women have had to fight for their rights – even in the church.

-when you read the Bible you need to know God – if we have some knowledge of God we will be able to perceive if something is not exactly right.

-when you read the Bible you need to STUDY it! You need to understand that the Bible was originally written in Hebrew and Greek; you need to understand what the Word was translated from.

"The Bible is a book that has been read more and examined less than any book that ever existed."

–Thomas Paine (Author, 1773-1809)

-you also need to understand who is talking and who they are talking to when you read the Word - you need background info! If we don't do these things we may get confused!

2 Pet 3:16 He (Paul) writes the same way in all his letters, speaking in them of these matters. His letters contain some things that are hard to understand, which ignorant and unstable people distort, as they do the other Scriptures, to their own destruction.

*the ignorant and unstable distort what is hard to understand.

-the ignorant are the unlearned and the unstable are the unstable – they are not fixed, they wobble back and forth.

-distort means to pervert – it means to misrepresent or use in the wrong way.

-the hard to understand are the more complicated things – they are the things that need to be studied, not just read.

*when we pervert the Word because we do not study it we are doing it to our own destruction – we are losing out; we are walking in the flesh.

When we walk in the flesh we also affect others!

1 Tim. 1:7 (ampl.) They are ambitious to be doctors of the Law, BUT THEY HAVE NO UNDERSTANDING OF THE WORDS & TERMS THEY USE OR OF THE SUBJECTS ABOUT WHICH THEY MAKE [SUCH] DOGMATIC ASSERTIONS.

*we need to understand the words and terms in God's Word in relation to the original language they were written in. Some of us unbendingly believe things that are not even the truth because we do not understand the original, fundamental meaning of the words we are reading – and when we do this we are destroying ourselves.

-if we disapprove of women teachers it is only because we are not aware of the original definitions so let's look at some instances where verses about women have been misinterpreted.

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

*we need to understand that in the original language that the Bible was written in "man" is the word for "husband" and "woman" is the word "wife" in this verse- Paul is clearly talking about the husband and wife relationship here - he goes on to use Adam and Eve as the example - a husband and wife team. THIS VERSE DOES NOT APPLY TO ALL MEN AND WOMEN!!

*this verse is not a put down to women, but it is a call to the husbands - husbands should not be relying on their wives for Spiritual knowledge! They should be Spiritually "on-the-ball" themselves –

they should not need their wives to teach them God's Word because they should be in the Word themselves!

-the word translated as "permit" here in this verse comes from a word that really means "to turn over or transfer" — Paul was not giving the husbands a license to loaf Spiritually thus transferring the load onto the wife!

*Paul was NOT saying he doesn't "ALLOW" a woman to teach a man – he was saying he does not turn over the responsibility of being Spiritual to the WIFE – she can't read for the husband; she cannot grow Spiritually for him! The husband needs to learn for himself!

-we see many other cases in God's Word of God using women to teach so we know this isn't what Paul is saying – Scripture needs to be looked at in depth and it needs to be compared to what else God says! God does not contradict Himself!

*Luke 2:36-38, Prov. 31:26, 1 Sam 1:2 - 1 Sam. 2:21, Joel 2:28, Acts 2:14-21, Acts 18:24-26, Judges 13:19-24, Mt. 27:19, Luke 1:59-60, Phil. 4:3, Acts 21:9, Judges 4:4-9 and 18-24, Rom 16:1-4,6,15.

-God tells us that WOMEN WILL PROPHECY – that word "prophecy" means "to speak under inspiration!"

Acts 2:16-18 KJV But this is that which was spoken by the prophet Joel (Joel 2:28); And it shall come to pass in the last days, saith God, I will pour out of My Spirit upon ALL flesh: and your sons and your daughters shall prophecy, and your young men shall see visions, and your old men shall dream dreams: And on My servants and on My handmaidens I will pour out in those days of My Spirit; and they shall prophecy:

*God can and does use women to speak His Word!

*we also want to see that "old men" was translated from the word "presbuteros" which means an elder or a senior; a leader in the church – this word is not male only! The phrase "elder women" in 1 Tim. 5:2 was translated from this word "presbuteros." God shows us here that leaders in the church are not of the male species alone!

*Paul did not transfer the Spiritual learning just over to the wife – it was the husbands job to be in the Word as well!! He needed to be in the Word so he could lead his family!

-unfortunately, some men leave all the Spiritual "stuff" to their wives!

-when this happens women tend to be the head of the family which is NOT God's plan!

Ephesians 5:23 KJV 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.

HEAD: in the sense of *seizing*; the *head* (as the part most readily *taken* hold of), literally or figuratively: - head.

*the leadership role is a role of being responsible, taking the heat, suffering yourself so others don't have to (the Nativity Story – Joseph & the food), being someone others want to follow, being someone others CAN follow because you are going the right way, etc!

-God did design the man to be the head of the family and for the husband and wife to work TOGETHER AS A TEAM – a team has to be on the same page!! A team functions as a unit! A single entity!

*"to have authority over" was translated from a word that means "to act of oneself." The woman is not to act alone in a marriage – she is to be a partner; they are to be a team!

*"silent" was translated from a word that means "to still, KEEPING ONE'S SEAT, peaceable, quiet, desist from bustle or words." The woman needs to be still and let God do the work in her husband – not

try to change him herself! Some women want to tell their husband everything they do that is wrong but God says we should “desist from bustle and words!” Complaining and griping won’t change anyone! Some women want to change their husbands - they can’t wait for God! What ends up happening is the husband and wife roles end up being more like mother and son! Instead of “keeping her seat” as wife, she has switched “chairs” to the mothering seat!

-she could also “switch seats” and take on the leadership role or the role God calls “the head.” - which is NOT the “boss” role!

*the original intention is for the man to lead the family and for the husband and wife to be equal! Just because someone is the leader that doesn’t mean they need to dominate ~ in fact, it means the opposite! A real leader won’t dominate! He will lead by example, he’ll have people who want to follow him!

-God did not intend for women to be treated unequally!!

*women, as well as the men, need to learn in quiet – how can you learn something if you are talking the whole time to someone who is trying to teach!!

-questioning a Pastor in the middle of the service or trying to “correct” them in the middle of the service is usurping authority. A woman CAN teach a man - just not doing it in this disrespectful way!

-church is not a place for people (man or woman!) to be speaking out. God says we are to come near to LISTEN (Eccl. 5:1). Speaking out during a message opens the door for more talking, confusion, and chaos. It just so happens that the women were the ones being pointed out for doing it in this situation.

*let's also look at who Paul is talking about when he is talking to Timothy about the Ephesian women – this may be why this Scripture was translated this way. Who were the Ephesian women – Many were “weak willed...loaded down with sins and...swayed by all kinds of evil desires” - 2 Tim. 3:6. Many were dressing as sex objects - 1 Tim. 2:9, and they were idle “gossips and busybodies, saying things they ought not to” - 1 Tim. 5:13. They had a role in spreading false teachings from house to house (churches met in houses many times). Most of these women had no clue about anything because they were not permitted to attend the “church services” in the temple up until this point – and even at this time they were only permitted to “observe” the service! Ephesus was the 4th largest city in the Roman Empire and it was home to Dianna’s temple. Many were made wealthy off of this temple because it brought many tourists. They looked at this temple as one of the 7 wonders of the world. It also served as a bank. Dianna was also known as the goddess Artemis - the patron of sex. Most women at this time were proud to be prostitutes - it was a high position in this community!

-you can see why someone would think that these women should stay quiet – but in the church the women were learning, they were growing! Paul was not against a woman that God ordained with a gift to teach.

LET’S LOOK AT ANOTHER SET OF VERSES THAT ARE MISINTERPRETED—

1 Cor 14:31 KJV For ye may ALL prophesy one by one, that ALL may learn, and ALL may be comforted.

14:33 For God is not [the author] of confusion, but of peace, as in all churches of the saints.

14:34 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.

14:35 And if they will learn anything, let them ask their husbands at home: for it is a shame for women to speak in the church.

14:36 What? came the word of God out from you? or came it unto you only?

14:37 If any man think himself to be a prophet, or spiritual, let him acknowledge that the things that I write unto you are the commandments of the Lord.

14:38 But if any man be ignorant, let him be ignorant.

14:39 Wherefore, brethren, covet to prophesy, and forbid not to speak with tongues.

14:40 Let all things be done decently and in order.

*these Scriptures have caused MANY misunderstandings! We must know first that punctuation was not in the original language – MAN added the punctuation.

-we find a mistake in the punctuation in verse 33.

*many Christian scholars encourage students to read the New Testament books straight through without chapter and verse breaks and without being a stickler about the punctuation.

-when Robert Stephanus worked out the verse numbers for the New Testament in 1551 while on a journey from Paris to Lyons, he combined this clause with the preceding one as verse 33. Accordingly, the translators of the KJV put the two parts of the verse together into one sentence, but modern Greek editors, most modern translations (RSV, NASB margin, NIV, NRSV), and most modern commentators recognize that verse 33b actually begins a new sentence.

-we see that verse 33 is not punctuated properly because we cannot compare God to all churches of the saints. We can back this up when we look at Christ addressing the churches of the saints in Revelation. A period should be placed after “but of peace.” Also, the word “let” was added to the text so that it reads, “LET your women keep silent.” Paul then goes on to say, “As in all churches of the saints your women keep silent. In the churches it is not permitted unto them to speak...” Paul is *describing* what is going on in the churches; THEIR women keep silent – HE IS NOT SAYING IT SHOULD BE THIS WAY! In verse 36 he questions them about this – “What? Came the Word of God out from you? Or came it unto you only?” He asks them if they think THEIR laws are God’s words – are they so full of themselves that they think their words are God’s or that mankind should follow their laws as if they were God’s?! He asks them if they think they (the men) have the market on the Word! He then goes on to let them know that the things he (Paul) writes are from the Lord – the things they are commanding women to do are NOT FROM THE LORD. So he then goes on and tells them if they want to be ignorant so be it – they are being ignorant when they live by such laws (2 Peter 3:16...ignorant and unstable people distort...!)! Remember, we do not have to live under the curse anymore because of what Christ did for us – but we can be ignorant in regards to what He did and remain in this curse if we chose to.

-Paul did not agree with WOMEN being silent in the church – and neither does God.

*in verse 31 he says ALL may prophesy (or speak under inspiration) so that ALL can learn!

-a woman can learn from a man and a man can learn from a woman!

1 Cor 11:4-5 KJV Every man praying or prophesying, having [his] head covered, dishonoureth his head. But every woman that prayeth or prophesieth with [her] head uncovered dishonoureth her head...

*Paul speaks about WOMEN (specifically a wife in this use) praying and PROPHESYING – SPEAKING under inspiration!! So we KNOW Paul does not think women should be silent!

*Paul says that when a man speaks or prays his head should be uncovered and the woman’s (the wife’s) head should be covered – what does this mean?

-Eph. 5:23 tells us that the husband is the head of the wife and Christ is the head of the church. Christ is the head of all people – He is the head of the man. A WIFE should “cover” her head (the hubby) when she prays or prophesies – she goes straight to God; she does not have to go through her husband – if she does she is dishonoring God. It is dishonoring to God when women feel inferior to a man! A man prays with his head uncovered – he also goes straight to God.

-Paul worked with many women – he was not a chauvinist; he was not against women in ministry!

Acts 18:18 KJV And Paul [after this] tarried [there] yet a good while, and then took his leave of the brethren, and sailed thence into Syria, and with him PRISCILLA and Aquila...
 Rom 16:1-6, 15 I commend to you OUR SISTER Phoebe, A SERVANT OF THE CHURCH in Cenchrea. I ask you to receive her in the Lord in a way worthy of the saints and to give her any help she may need from you, for she has been a great help to many people, including me. Greet PRISCILLA and Aquila, my fellow workers in Christ Jesus. They risked their lives for me. Not only I but all the churches of the Gentiles are grateful to them. Greet also the church that meets at their house. Greet my dear friend Epenetus, who was the first convert to Christ in the province of Asia. Greet MARY, who worked very hard for you. Greet Philologus, JULIA, Nereus and HIS SISTER, and Olympas and all the saints with them.

*the word translated as "servant" referring to Phoebe (a woman) means a lot more than what we may think. It is translated from the Greek word "diakonos" which PRIMARILY means a Christian teacher or pastor. Technically it is a deacon or deaconess, a minister, a servant. And they were told to receive her in the Lord—not reject her because she was a woman!

Acts 18:24-26 Meanwhile a Jew named Apollos, a native of Alexandria, came to Ephesus. He was a learned man, with a thorough knowledge of the Scriptures. He had been instructed in the way of the Lord, and he spoke with great fervor and taught about Jesus accurately, though he knew only the baptism of John. He began to speak boldly in the synagogue. When PRISCILLA and Aquila heard him, they invited him to their home and EXPLAINED TO HIM THE WAY OF GOD MORE ADEQUATELY.

*Priscilla was used by God to teach a learned man!

Phil 4:3 Yes, and I ask you, loyal yokefellow, HELP THESE WOMEN WHO HAVE CONTENDED AT MY SIDE IN THE CAUSE OF THE GOSPEL, along with Clement and the rest of my fellow workers, whose names are in the book of life.

*it is also important for us to understand what was going on at this time when Corinthians was written. Women were now being permitted to join the men for the "church service" but they still had to be segregated.

-women sat on one side & men on the other

-before they kept women on the outside looking in

Exo 38:8 They made the bronze basin and its bronze stand from the mirrors of the women who served AT THE ENTRANCE to the Tent of Meeting.

1 Sam 2:22 Now Eli, who was very old, heard about everything his sons were doing to all Israel and how they slept with the women WHO SERVED AT THE ENTRANCE to the Tent of Meeting.

Acts 16:13 On the Sabbath we went OUTSIDE the city gate to the river, where we expected to find a place of prayer. We sat down and began to speak to the women who had gathered there.

*they expected to find a place of prayer because they knew they would find women being kept on the outside looking in. Fortunately they were not respecters of persons and they began to speak with the women!

-God's plan was not for the women to be on the outside looking in! (When you read God's word STUDY it! Make sure what you are reading agrees with what God says - "reproof!")

Deu 31:12 Assemble the people—men, WOMEN and children, and the aliens living in your towns—SO THEY CAN LISTEN AND LEARN TO FEAR THE LORD YOUR GOD AND FOLLOW CAREFULLY ALL THE WORDS OF THIS LAW.

Josh 8:35 There was not a word of all that Moses had commanded that Joshua did not read to the whole assembly of Israel, INCLUDING THE WOMEN and children, and the aliens who lived among them.

*God had to specify women for a reason. If all women were looked at as equal God would not have had to specifically name men and women.

*God did not say women should not learn – He wanted them to learn so that they could teach!

Prov 31:26 SHE speaks with wisdom, and faithful instruction is on HER tongue.

*during the time this verse in Corinthians was written women were beginning to gain freedom in the church – freedom that was taken away by man, not God. No longer were they being kept on the outside.

-many times women were treated unfairly and that was not God's plan! Look at the women in the Old Testament. Look at Proverbs 31! GOD uses women – it is people who try to stop them.

-it was man who perverted the treatment of women.

-look at some of the things that went on with the women.

*men married more than one woman. (Gen. 4:23, Gen. 28:9 ~& the list goes on!!)

-women were not married to more than one man!

*they were treated as property (Acts 16:16-19)

*they were basically the slaves in the household - physically or sexually (harems) (Eccl 2:8, Esther 2:3~& the list goes on!!)

*they were kept on the outside looking in when it came to the Temple. (see above)

*women were for the first time hearing about the Holy Spirit, freedom in Christ & other such things that confused them and Jewish history tells us that they were shouting across the assembly asking their husbands questions since they could not sit on the same side as the men.

-this could be why this was translated that women should be silent and learn at home even though this is not what Paul was saying.

*many of the Corinthian women carried out the worship ceremonies at that time as prostitutes! (And the men loved it!) They “worshipped” at the Temple of Aphrodite (the goddess of love) and they blatantly bred immorality through Corinth - so much so that the Greek verb translated “to Corinthianize” meant to practice sexual immorality! These Corinthians ate well, satisfied their sexual urges without thinking twice, flirted with wisdom of men, and did all that they could do to keep their bodies as beautiful as the Greek gods! Corinth was home to at least 12 heathen temples!

*women are NOT to be seen & not heard in the church today - this is not what this is about!

-“they are not allowed to speak...as THE LAW says”

*we are no longer under any law! (and Paul knew that – he was talking to - people still trying to live under rules and regulations – mainly their own man-made ones!)

Gal 5:18 But if you are led by the Spirit, you are not under law.

Rom 6:14 For sin shall not be your master, because you are not under law, but under grace.

Rom 8:2 because through Christ Jesus the law of the Spirit of life SET ME FREE FROM THE LAW of sin and death.

-once you are alive to Christ, you are dead to the law - you cannot be alive to both – it is one or the other! The law was the way of the flesh – it was our way to be “good,” our way to do “good” works. Jesus Christ is knowing we can't be good enough - we need a Savior!

GOD USES WOMEN

Luke 8:1-3 After this, Jesus traveled about from one town and village to another, proclaiming the good news of the kingdom of God. The Twelve were with Him, and also some WOMEN who had been cured of evil spirits and diseases: Mary (called Magdalene) from whom seven demons had come out; Joanna the wife

of Cuza, the manager of Herod's household; Susanna; and many others. THESE WOMEN WERE HELPING TO SUPPORT THEM OUT OF THEIR OWN MEANS.

Acts 21:9 He had four unmarried daughters who PROPHESED.

Exo 15:20-21 Then Miriam the prophetess, Aaron's sister, took a tambourine in her hand, and all the women followed her, with tambourines and dancing. Miriam sang to them: "Sing to the LORD, for He is highly exalted. The horse and its rider he has hurled into the sea."

*Miriam was a prophetess – she spoke under divine inspiration! She was also a worship leader.

Acts 1:14 They all joined together constantly in prayer, along with the women and Mary the mother of Jesus, and with his brothers.

DEBORAH

Judg 4:4 Deborah, a prophetess, the wife of Lappidoth, was leading Israel at that time.

*Deborah was a woman who was used by God to prophecy and to inspire others with God's Words!

*she was also a wife, and since she was a Godly woman, I am sure she submitted to her husband according to the Lord – this did not mean she could not teach or speak the Word!

*even though she was a woman, in subjection to her own husband, she was still a LEADER of Israel! And Israel was full of women & men! She was in a leadership position over men – and GOD put her there!

Judg 4:5 She held court under the Palm of Deborah between Ramah and Bethel in the hill country of Ephraim, and the Israelites came to HER to have their disputes decided.

*Deborah was a judge - she made the decisions for the people of Israel!

*men & women trusted what she said because she spoke under inspiration from God!

Judg 4:6-7 She sent for Barak son of Abinoam from Kedesh in Naphtali and said to him, "The LORD, the God of Israel, commands you: 'Go, take with you ten thousand men of Naphtali and Zebulun and lead the way to Mount Tabor. I will lure Sisera, the commander of Jabin's army, with his chariots and his troops to the Kishon River and give him into your hands.'"

*Deborah heard from God! And God told her to tell a man to do something!!

Judg 4:8 Barak said to her, "If you go with me, I will go; but if you don't go with me, I won't go."

*the man God had a message for was not too "macho"! He wouldn't do what God told him to do unless Deborah went with him! He needed a *girl* to go with him!

Judg 4:9 "Very well," Deborah said, "I will go with you. But because of the way you are going about this, the honor will not be yours, for the LORD will hand Sisera over to a woman." So Deborah went with Barak to Kedesh...

*Deborah was no chicken! She was ready & willing to go! She knew that God would do what He said He would do! She knew the victory was already in the bag - it was the Lord's!!

-Judges 4:18-24 – God did give Sisera over to a woman; Jael killed him! God gave the victory to a woman (which was probably a put-down *to him*) because he did not have living faith regarding what God spoke to him.

*how many times does God have to use a woman because a man has no faith? No wonder why Paul said he didn't turn over the responsibility of being Spiritual to the wife alone – men need to get in the Word for themselves; men need faith, too.

ANNA

Luke 2:36-38 There was also a prophetess, Anna, the daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Asher. She was very old; she had lived with her husband seven years after her marriage, and then was a widow until she was eighty-four. She never left the temple but worshiped night and day, fasting and praying. Coming up to them at that very moment, she gave thanks to God and SPOKE about the child to ALL who were looking forward to the redemption of Jerusalem.

*Anna spent her days and nights worshipping – worship is presenting yourself as a living sacrifice; it is living your everyday life for Christ (Rom. 12:1). She worshipped in the temple – she worked in the temple.

*Anna spoke in the temple! She told others about Jesus! The word that “spoke” was translated from also means “to preach.”

Titus 2:3 Likewise, teach the older women to be reverent in the way they live, not to be slanderers or addicted to much wine, but TO TEACH WHAT IS GOOD.

-women are teachers! And they can teach men!

Prov 31:26 SHE opens her mouth in wisdom, And the TEACHING of kindness is on her tongue.

Acts 18:24-26 Meanwhile a Jew named Apollos, a native of Alexandria, came to Ephesus. He was a learned man, with a thorough knowledge of the Scriptures. He had been instructed in the way of the Lord, and he spoke with great fervor and taught about Jesus accurately, though he knew only the baptism of John. He began to speak boldly in the synagogue. When PRISCILLA and Aquila heard him, they invited him to their home and EXPLAINED TO HIM THE WAY OF GOD MORE ADEQUATELY.

1 Cor 14:31 KJV For ye may ALL prophesy one by one, that ALL may learn, and ALL may be comforted.

RAHAB

Josh 2:1, 8-13 Then Joshua son of Nun secretly sent two spies from Shittim. "Go, look over the land," he said, "especially Jericho." So they went and entered the house of a prostitute named Rahab and stayed there...Before the spies lay down for the night, she went up on the roof and said to them, "I know that the LORD has given this land to you and that a great fear of you has fallen on us, so that all who live in this country are melting in fear because of you. We have heard how the LORD dried up the water of the Red Sea for you when you came out of Egypt, and what you did to Sihon and Og, the two kings of the Amorites east of the Jordan, whom you completely destroyed. When we heard of it, our hearts melted and everyone's courage failed because of you, FOR THE LORD YOUR GOD IS GOD IN HEAVEN ABOVE AND ON THE EARTH BELOW. Now then, please swear to me by the LORD that you will show kindness to my family, because I have shown kindness to you. Give me a sure sign that you will spare the lives of my father and mother, my brothers and sisters, and all who belong to them, and that you will save us from death."

Heb 11:31 By faith the prostitute Rahab, because she welcomed the spies, was not killed with those who were disobedient.

*Rahab was not a perfect woman, but she had faith (...we have HEARD...I KNOW...) & she was used by God – and not just to hide the spies, later on she is mentioned in the genealogy of Christ!

Mat 1:5 Salmon the father of Boaz, whose mother was RAHAB, Boaz the father of Obed, whose mother was Ruth, Obed the father of Jesse...

MARY

Luke 1:38 "I am the Lord's servant," Mary answered. "May it be to me as you have said." Then the angel left her.

Luke 1:46-55 And Mary said: "My soul glorifies the Lord and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior, for He has been mindful of the humble state of His servant. From now on all generations will call me blessed, for the Mighty One has done great things for me– holy is His name. His mercy extends to those who fear Him, from generation to generation. He has performed mighty deeds with His arm; He has scattered those who are proud in their inmost thoughts. He has brought down rulers from their thrones but has lifted up the humble. He has filled the hungry with good things but has sent the rich away empty. He has helped His servant Israel, remembering to be merciful to Abraham and his descendants forever, even as He said to our fathers."

*Mary had some spiritual knowledge!

*Mary was willing to be used by God with no assurance that a man would be there to help her!

THE WOMEN AT THE TOMB

Mat 28:8-10 So the women hurried away from the tomb, afraid yet filled with joy, and ran to tell His disciples. Suddenly Jesus met them. "Greetings," He said. They came to Him, clasped His feet and worshiped Him. Then Jesus said to them, "Do not be afraid. Go and tell My brothers to go to Galilee; there they will see Me."

*the women were the first ones to see Jesus

-they were the first ones to believe He arose!

*Jesus didn't say - Go get one of my male disciples so they can go & tell!!!

HANNAH 1 Sam 1:2 - 1 Sam. 2:21

*I have a separate study just on her – ask if you want one.

ABIGAIL 1 Sam. 25:18-42

*the Lord sent Abigail to David to keep him from avenging himself and shedding blood.

-God sent a woman to keep a man from doing something in the flesh.

*she gave him Spiritual advice.

-David was not too proud to listen to the counsel (advice, guidance, direction) of a woman.

THE QUEEN OF SHEBA 1 Kings 10:1-13

*the Queen of Sheba came to “prove Solomon with hard questions.”

-Solomon answered her questions – he didn't feel superior to her and refuse to answer her or even let her speak to him.

-she was not afraid to question Solomon – Solomon was not known for being a chauvinist.

LYDIA ACTS 16:14, 40

*Lydia was a worshipper (Rom. 12:1). The Lord opened her heart to learn and later she helped Paul when he left prison.

*women can & are used by God every day - we are the ones who limit them, & ourselves, as far as what we can do!

*another reason some people think women are less than men is because they pervert the plan God has for the family . We must remember that this plan for the family or marriage relationship is not God's attempt to keep women “one-down-under.” A woman is not “under” every man in the world. God is not for men belittling women; God wants man to protect women - that is why He gave us this plan for the family!

Eph 5:22-25 Wives, submit to your husbands as to the Lord. For the husband is the head of the wife as Christ is the head of the church, His body, of which He is the Savior. Now as the church submits to Christ, so also wives should submit to their husbands in everything. Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ loved the church and gave Himself up for her

-God wants us to be decent & in order - confusion brings no glory to Him, therefore someone is to be the head.

HEAD: (in the sense of seizing); the head (as the part most readily taken hold of)

*the head takes the heat! He puts himself on the line for the family

- how many men are really doing that? How many times do you see the women standing up for the family, fighting Spiritually for their children, etc!!

*women – we need to let our husbands do this. If they are taking on this “head” position we should submit to that or agree with it. Do not try to take the heat for him – God designed the man to handle this.

*if someone is attacking the family the husband is the head making him the part most readily taken hold of – that is why the head needs to be strong; God designed the man to be stronger than the woman in this area.

*God says Christ is the head of the church and He compares the man's role in the family to that of Christ in the church - think of the things Christ does for the church.

Christ does not belittle us! Christ does not tell us the church cannot teach.

-Christ "took the heat" for us – He paid the price for us so that we wouldn't have to. Husbands, what price are you paying for your wives? Are you tapping into your strength or letting your wife be "the part most readily taken hold of?"

-God instructs the man to be the leader or the head of the MARRIAGE RELATIONSHIP, OF THE FAMILY - and with being the leader comes great responsibility. As the spiritual leader you need to be spiritually fit!!

*he is the head of the marriage, but God is the head of him (and the marriage; the woman) – so he needs to know GOD!

1 Cor 11:3 Now I want you to realize that the head of every man is Christ, and the head of the woman is man, and the head of Christ is God.

*The man is to love his wife like Christ loved the church! And as the man is behaving like Christ the woman will have no trouble submitting to him or responding to him as to the Lord.

-the man is the head of the family, but Christ is the head of the man! And nothing about Christ is prejudice, demanding, etc. Christ is not a dictator! We follow Him because of love - not because we are forced to! (And we only know what love is because He first loved us! That is why husbands are instructed to love their wives (Eph. 5:25) -loving your husband will come naturally if the husband is doing what God tells him to.)

-if the husband is willing to give himself up for the wife that says a lot!

*he is willing to put himself aside & put her first!

-wives submitting to their husbands is not about women doing everything they say, having no opinion or say, not being able to think for themselves, etc!

Judg 13:19-24 Then Manoah took a young goat, together with the grain offering, and sacrificed it on a rock to the LORD. And the LORD did an amazing thing while Manoah and his wife watched: As the flame blazed up from the altar toward heaven, the angel of the LORD ascended in the flame. Seeing this, Manoah and his wife fell with their faces to the ground. When the angel of the LORD did not show himself again to Manoah and his wife, Manoah realized that it was the angel of the LORD. "We are doomed to die!" he said to his wife. "We have seen God!" But his wife answered, "If the LORD had meant to kill us, he would not have accepted a burnt offering and grain offering from our hands, nor shown us all these things or now told us this." The woman gave birth to a boy and named him Samson. He grew and the LORD blessed him...

*Manoah's wife had things straight when he didn't!

*Manoah was doom & gloom - his wife looked at things rationally. She looked at things spiritually. She had to straighten him out.

2 Ki 4:8-10 One day Elisha went to Shunem. And a well-to-do woman was there, who urged him to stay for a meal. So whenever he came by, he stopped there to eat. She said to her husband, "I know that this man who often comes our way is a holy man of God. Let's make a small room on the roof and put in it a bed and a table, a chair and a lamp for him. Then he can stay there whenever he comes to us."

*she told her husband! It was her idea to make a place for Elisha.

-women have a right to speak and have ideas – they aren't to be seen and not heard!

Mat 27:19 While Pilate was sitting on the judge's seat, his wife sent him this message: "Don't have anything to do with that innocent man, for I have suffered a great deal today in a dream because of him."

*Pilate's wife was not afraid to speak to him & tell him she didn't think what he was doing was right.

Luke 1:59-60 On the eighth day they came to circumcise the child, and they were going to name him after his father Zechariah, but his mother spoke up and said, "No! He is to be called John."

*Elizabeth wasn't afraid to take a stand!

Neh 2:6 Then the king, WITH THE QUEEN SITTING BESIDE HIM, asked me...

*the queen was beside him – not below him!

*submitting is part of God's plan to keep things in order - not to make women slaves!! And if the man is in agreement with God's word, he would never expect her to live like his slave!

*also remember that wives are supposed to submit to THEIR OWN husbands - not every man under the sun! And they are supposed to submit as is fitting in the Lord! Men are not superior! Women are not less than men!

Col 3:18 Wives, submit to your husbands, AS IS FITTING IN THE LORD.

Eph 5:21 SUBMIT TO ONE ANOTHER out of reverence for Christ.

-God also tells us to submit to one another and to do what we do for HIM!

Phil 2:3 Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit, but in humility CONSIDER OTHERS BETTER THAN YOURSELVES.

-God tells us to be humble - you cannot be a dictator and be humble at the same time. You cannot consider someone better than you and treat them inferior to you.

Neh 2:6 Then the king, WITH THE QUEEN SITTING BESIDE HIM, asked me, "How long will your journey take, and when will you get back?" It pleased the king to send me; so I set a time.

-remember GOD took woman from man's RIB - not his head or his foot!

1 Pet 3:7 Husbands, in the same way be considerate as you live with your wives, and treat them with respect as the weaker partner and AS HEIRS WITH YOU OF THE GRACIOUS GIFT OF LIFE, so that nothing will hinder your prayers.

*husbands are told here to be considerate & treat their wives with respect! Not as slaves, not as sex objects, etc!! God is very clear that this is not what He has planned for the marriage relationship!

-he even warned the men that their prayers would be hindered if they were not treating their wives right – this is because they weren't walking in the Spirit, they weren't in agreement with God or living by faith, if they were treating their wives wrong!

*the KJV says as the weaker vessel - VESSEL: indicating something used by God!

-men are not the only ones who can be used by God!

-and women are usually physically weaker, many times emotionally weaker, but not always Spiritually weaker! The man was created to be "the part most readily taken hold of."

*we all have the same opportunities Spiritually - the woman doesn't get less of God's Holy Spirit because she is a woman!! God loves justice - He is fair! He doesn't give more of His Holy Spirit to the male species!

*we are ALL HEIRS TOGETHER - not just men! The promises of God are for EVERYONE who BELIEVES!! Not just the "man" who believes!

-girls are "spending" the inheritance, too! God gives women rights, too!

Num 26:33 (Zelophehad son of Hopher had no sons; he had only daughters, whose names were Mahlah, Noah, Hoglah, Milcah and Tirzah.)

Num 27:1 The daughters of Zelophehad son of Hopher, the son of Gilead, the son of Makir, the son of Manasseh, belonged to the clans of Manasseh son of Joseph. The

names of the daughters were Mahlah, Noah, Hoglah, Milcah and Tirzah. They approached the entrance to the Tent of Meeting and stood before Moses, Eleazar the priest, the leaders and the whole assembly, and said, "Our father died in the desert. He was not among Korah's followers, who banded together against the LORD, but he died for his own sin and left no sons. Why should our father's name disappear from his clan because he had no son? Give us property among our father's relatives." So Moses brought their case before the LORD and the LORD said to him, "What Zelophehad's daughters are saying is right. You must certainly give them property as an inheritance among their father's relatives and turn their father's inheritance over to them.

-Zelophehad's 5 daughters had boldness to ask for what was rightfully theirs (which is something God encourages us to do!~ Luke 11:9)

-Moses did not shut these women down - he went to God!

-God agreed with the daughters! He confirmed that they had rights, the same rights as a son!

Num 36:10 So Zelophehad's daughters did as the LORD commanded Moses.

*IN CHRIST woman is equal to man!

Gal 3:28 There is neither Jew nor Greek, slave nor free, male nor female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus.

1 Cor 11:11-12 In the Lord, however, woman is not independent of man, nor is man independent of woman. For as woman came from man, so also man is born of woman. BUT EVERYTHING COMES FROM GOD.

-in Christ women are equal - we are all the same!

-the original intention is the way God wants it to be today – we are not independent of each other.

INDEPENDENT: at a space, i.e. separately or apart from (often as prep.):—beside, by itself, without.

-we need each other - God made us that way! He made us to work together - as a team, a unit, a single entity (in marriage)!

-true Eve came from Adam, but another man couldn't come forth without Eve!

*we need each other so one is not better than the other

*women lost freedom after the fall – now she had to be “ruled” over – now someone had to make sure she stayed out of trouble! (Not that Adam did such a good job in the first place 😊!) And as a result women became objects / property and the husband and wife relationship also became perverted – look at how many wives they had in the Old Testament! (None of the O.T. heroes would've been able to work in today's churches!) Clearly this treatment of women was not and is not God's plan!

-so we see what the woman lost – and more importantly, we see that Jesus came to get it back for her! Through Christ we can get back what satan stole in the garden! But let's be reminded of how we get it back~

Exo 22:7 ...the thief, IF HE IS CAUGHT, MUST PAY BACK DOUBLE.

Prov 6:30-31 ... a thief...IF HE IS CAUGHT, HE MUST PAY SEVENFOLD, though it costs him all the wealth of his house.

*the thief is only required to pay back when he is FOUND OUT! We need to find him out and we find out through STUDYING the Word! The Word shows us the way things are supposed to be in comparison with how they are!! And when we discover what has been stolen from us we need to go to the Source to get it back! The thief has been robbing from women for years and he uses misinterpretation of God's word to do it!

*ladies – the thief is being found out here and now and we need to demand restitution! Quit living like a 2nd class citizen because you are a woman!

*The Judge is the one who decides the sentence for the thief - He is the one who makes sure restitution is made –

Acts 10:40-42 but God raised Him from the dead on the third day and caused Him to be seen...He commanded us to preach to the people and to testify that He is the one whom God appointed as Judge of the living and the dead.

-divine restoration only takes place through Christ! Take back what is yours in Christ – YOU GO GIRL!!

