

Hays Mill church of Christ

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## By Mark White

Is it in harmony with the Scriptures for a woman to be a preacher or an elder in the church of our Lord? It might not be politically correct, but the answer is "No." In fact, the Bible specifically condemns the practice of women serving in this capacity.

In Paul's first letter to Timothy, we read, "Therefore I want the men in every place to pray, lifting up holy hands, without wrath and dissension. Likewise, I want women to adorn themselves with proper clothing, modestly and discreetly, not with braided hair and gold or pearls or costly garments, but rather by means of good works, as is proper for women making a claim to godliness. A woman must quietly receive instruction with entire submissiveness. But I do not allow

a woman to teach or exercise authority over a man, but to remain quiet. For it was Adam who was first created, and then Eve. And it was not Adam who was deceived, but the woman being deceived, fell into transgression. But women will be preserved through the bearing of children if they continue in faith and love and sanctity with self-restraint," 1 Tim 2:8-15. This passage not only prohibits women from "teaching" or "exercis[ing] authority over a man," but it also gives us the reason: "it was Adam who was first created, and then Eve... but the woman being deceived, fell into transgression."

After reading this passage some women might wonder what role God has for them. Paul explains that the godly women "will be preserved through the bearing of children." Paul is saying that women are to find their salvation by fulfilling the role God gave them, i.e., bearing children and guiding the home. I know of no greater work that women could do than to bear children and instruct them in the knowledge of God.

In 1 Corinthians 14, Paul discusses the matter of spiritual gifts in the first century church. After instructing the church that those who speak in tongues had to "keep silent" if there was no interpreter, and that one prophet had to "keep silent" if another prophet was speaking, he says, "The women are to keep silent in the churches; for they are not permitted to speak, but are to subject themselves, just as the Law also says. If they desire to learn anything, let them ask their own husbands at home; for it is improper for a woman to speak in church," 1 Cor 14:34,35. To this passage is attached the following admonition, "If anyone thinks he is a prophet or spiritual, let him recognize that the things which I write to you are the Lord's commandment," 1 Cor 14:37.

Brother J.W. Shepherd made

this observation on Paul's instructions to the church at Corinth: "No instruction in the New Testament is more positive than this; it is positive, explicit, and universal; and however plausible may be the reasons which are urged for disregarding it, and for suffering women to take an active part in conducting public worship, yet the authority of the inspired apostles remains positive and his meaning cannot be misunderstood. He looks at it from every viewpoint, forbids it altogether, and shows that from every consideration it was to be regarded as improper for them to take any active part in conducting the public service," (Commentary on the New Testament Epistles by David Lipscomb, Edited, with Additional Notes, v2, p216).

Bevond this, in the qualifications given for "bishops" (i.e. pastors, elders, shepherds), Paul twice says they must be "the husband of one wife," 1 Tim 3:2; Tit 1:6. Unless you are willing to accept two lesbians living together, calling that a "marriage," and considering one of them as the husband, there is no way for a woman to be "the husband of one wife."

—edited to NASB; corrected citation, KSV 📖

## Distraction

The song leader read the passage that encouraged us to praise the Lord in song and then instructed us to, "pay attention to the words."

Yet... The man sitting two rows in front was staring into space, then looking around the room—never a note sung.

"Pray without ceasing," Paul instructs in 1 Thessalonians 5:17, and the gentleman at the front says, "Please bow with me while we pray."

Yet... To the right was a woman making faces at a child, seeking a laugh or smile and to the left another was using her thumbs to quickly send a message on her phone.

Mark 4:24 warns to, "pay attention to what you hear," which applies to the word of God being spoken during a sermon.

Yet... the man behind me broke my concentration by talking to his wife while God's word was being read and taught.

The book of Nehemiah tells of the Israelites standing when Ezra read from God's scroll.

Yet... while sitting in comfortable,



Buddy's neighbor, and a brother in Christ, Tommy Nelson, suffers from advanced prostate cancer; and Joyce continues to deal with cancer, as well. padded pews, the time was being checked on watches and phones, demonstrating disrespect for the holy words.

Jesus commands us to remember Him through the taking of the Lord's Supper... His death and sacrifice for MY sins.

Yet... some around could NOT have been remembering because they were busy with other things... a precious sacrifice forgotten.

Agrippa said, "Almost you persuade me to be a Christian," and so was I ...

Yet... during the invitation three in front were preparing to leave and while the song was being sung two left the auditorium just to return moments later.

I came to worship my Lord.

I came to hear His word.

I came to reflect on my relationship with Him.

I came to be persuaded to serve. Yet... I was distracted.

Pray that we are never part of any distraction.

—Author unknown 🔎

Let's continue to pray for **Madelene Britnell**, **Carolyn Dennis**, and **Tim** and **Dot Hice.**