

God's Plan of Salvation:

1. Hear - Romans 10:17
2. Believe - Mark 16:16
3. Repent - Acts 2:38
4. Confess - Romans 10:10
5. Be baptized - Acts 22:16
6. Live faithfully - Revelation 2:10

Announcements:

Sick: Mr. Brown, Mr. Dowling, Mr. Hadley, Ms. Donna Law, Ms. Kim (Ashley Law's mother), Lamar Mathis, Mr. and Mrs. Pete Newsome, Mrs. Owens, Ms. Ward, Mr. Winns.
Out of Town: Jared Law and family, Mark Law and family.

If you would be interested in any of the following ways to study the Bible, feel free to let us know:

- Home Bible Study - We will come into your home or other place you feel comfortable and study the Bible with you. Bible questions are welcome in these studies and we will seek to give a Bible answer.
- Correspondence courses - We will be glad to mail you a correspondence lesson that you can fill out and mail back to us and we will send you the next lesson.
- Call us with your Bible question - #503-707-6014.
- Visit our website: www.oakgrovechurchofchristjenningsflorida.com
- Come and visit - We always strive to have good, practical Bible instruction at each of our assemblies.

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The Role of Women - Part 1

By Derek Long

Our society's views regarding the roles of men and women are changing rapidly. As women are being masculinized men are being feminized. Christians are called upon to not be conformed to the world around them but rather be transformed by renewing their mind (Romans 12:1-2). Our desire is not to defend the traditional, American views on the roles of men and women. Our desire must be to defend God's views on the roles of men and women (Jude 3; 1 Peter 3:15; Philippians 1:17). What does the Bible teach about the role of women?

In thinking about the role of women, the restrictions God has placed upon women are often emphasized and are something we must remember. 1 Corinthians 14:34-35 says, "Let your women keep silent in the churches, for they are not permitted to speak; but they are to be submissive, as the law also says. And if they want to learn something, let them ask their own husbands at home; for it is shameful for women to speak in church" (NKJV). In settings where the whole church has come together in one place (1 Corinthians 14:23), women are not permitted to address the assembly. Women addressing an assembly where the whole church has come together in one place demonstrates a lack of submission and is a failure to do things decently and in order (1 Corinthians 14:40). 1 Timothy 2:11-14 is another passage which places some restrictions upon the role of women. It says, "Let a woman learn in silence with all submission. And I do not permit a woman to teach or to have authority over a man, but to be in silence. For Adam was formed first, then Eve. And Adam was not deceived, but the woman being deceived, fell into transgression" (NKJV). Women are not authorized to teach over or

exercise authority over a man but rather are to learn in a submissive manner. Passages such as 1 Corinthians 14:34-35 and 1 Timothy 2:11-14 prohibit women from being preachers or in some sort of leadership role within the church.

Within the marriage relationship, God has given the wife the role of submission (Ephesians 5:22-24; Colossians 3:18; 1 Peter 3:1-6) or to be obedient to their husbands (Titus 2:5). Of course, husbands have responsibilities to love their wives (Ephesians 5:25-29; Colossians 3:19) and dwell with them with understanding (1 Peter 3:7). However, a wife's role is one of submission where she willingly follows and cooperates with the leadership provided by her husband in the family.

When we speak about the restrictions which God has placed on the role of women, we are sometimes attacked as devaluing women or of not appreciating what women contribute. The fact women have a specific role to fulfill does not devalue or show a lack of appreciation for them. Rather, such actually demonstrates they have an important place within the church, home, and society which men are not capable at times of filling.

Women, who understand the above restrictions well, may sometimes struggle though to understand what their role or place is in life. What are some things the Bible teaches are the role of women? What sort of things does the Bible teach women can do? It is important to remember that the vast majority of what is commanded in the Scriptures is not gender-specific. Most of the commands in the Bible apply to all people whether they are male or female. Women are therefore authorized to do those things which God teaches all people to do. God's word does have some places though where the roles of men and women are specifically addressed. Here are some of the many things which we can learn about the role of women by looking at some of these places where the woman's role is specifically under consideration.

God initially created woman to be, "a helper comparable to him" (Genesis 2:18-24, NKJV). 1 Corinthians 11:8-9 reminds us woman initially was created from man and for the man. A woman's role is that of being a helper to the man. Being a helper does not mean she is to be viewed as someone who exists for the sole purpose

of pleasing man. Godly women are not men-pleasers or slaves of men (Galatians 1:10; 1 Corinthians 7:23). Godly women like godly men make it their aim to be pleasing to God (2 Corinthians 5:9). Men should not view women as there to serve them but should instead recognize their roles are such where they both serve one another (Ephesians 5:21; Galatians 5:13). God created woman though to supply to the man things which he would otherwise be lacking. Women may have particular talents and abilities which help the men around them. Women as helpers provide valuable service to men and should be praised for such.

God expects women to be involved in activities such as praying and teaching. Hannah is a godly example from the Old Testament of a woman who engaged in prayer (1 Samuel 1:10; 2:1). The New Testament speaks about women praying (1 Corinthians 11:5) and really expects widows to be people who are given to prayer (1 Timothy 5:5). Godly women will also be involved in teaching. Naaman's wife had a slave girl who spoke about the God of Israel (2 Kings 5:2-3). It is said of the virtuous wife in Proverbs 31, "She opens her mouth with wisdom, and on her tongue is the law of kindness" (vs. 26, NKJV). Also, Titus 2:3-5 speaks about the importance of older women being teachers of good things especially to younger women. The Bible will demonstrate that women at times have encouraged men to do what God would expect them to be doing. God used Deborah to encourage Barak to go against the Canaanites (Judges 4:6-9). Godly women will encourage men to be what they are expected by God to be without taking on a domineering spirit or taking on a position of authority (1 Timothy 2:11-12).

The Bible teaches other things godly women will engage in which we will attempt to look at in following articles.