

## WOMEN

The 'woman' issue has been hotly debated in religious circles and is still an unsettled issue in the Christian body at large. The various interpretations of some controversial passages have further confused the issue. Historically, women have been held back and were less than second-class citizens; they were property to be owned and discarded. Jesus came into the picture and through Him, justice and dignity were visited upon the woman's plight. Insecure men continue to try in vain to relegate women to the place of past cultures, but the Lord has come to set the captives (including women) free.

Galatians 3:28

*"There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free man, there is neither male nor female; for you are all one in Christ Jesus."*

Clearly, the Bible states that there is no man or woman in Christ Jesus, and 1 Peter 3:7 further states the husband is to treat the wife as a fellow heir. Although the woman is made for the man's sake (1 Corinthians 11:9) and is to submit to her own husband (Ephesians 5:22), it does not make her less. It only means that her purpose in the family unit puts her under the authority of her husband, but not under any other man, unless that man is another of her authorities (boss, pastor, etc.).

Each person, including women, has gifts to be exercised for the common good (Romans 12:6 and 1 Corinthians 12:7) and are obligated to supply as a joint in the body (Ephesians 4:16). And in the last days (today), the Holy Spirit will be poured out upon all flesh and all, including women, will prophesy (Acts 2:17-18). Are women to evangelize? Are women to pray for the sick? Are women to operate in the gifts God gave them? Of course!

The only legitimate concern is about women in governmental positions in the church (elders, pastors, and apostles). Since the scripture says elders are to be the husbands of one wife (1 Timothy 3:2), and that the women are to be submitted to their husbands in all things (Ephesians 5:24), it makes it difficult for the woman to be in spiritual authority and be obedient to the entire Word of God. However, we must be careful to receive all women and all their gifts, so we will receive that part of God each possesses for the good of the whole.

Matthew 10:41

*"... and he who receives a righteous man in the name of a righteous man shall receive a righteous man's reward."*

Luke 10:16

*"The one who listens to you listens to Me, and the one who rejects you rejects Me; and he who rejects Me rejects the One who sent Me."*