
Words of Truth

Women Do Have Some Roles Of Authority

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When discussing the roles of authority between men and women, there is rarely a proper Scriptural balance. In the roles of marriage, the word of God teaches women to submit to their husbands as unto the Lord (Ephesians 5:22-24). Sometimes those verses, and others that state similar truths, are the only ones discussed in the roles of women.

Regardless of a woman being married or not, God has given man the greater authority in all things. Notice: *“But I would have you know, that the head of every man is Christ; and the head of the woman is the man; and the head of Christ is God... I will therefore that men pray every where, lifting up holy hands, without wrath and doubting. In like manner also, that women adorn themselves in modest apparel, with shamefacedness and sobriety; not with broided hair, or gold, or pearls, or costly array; But (which becometh women professing godliness) with good works. 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. Notwithstanding she shall be saved in childbearing, if they continue in faith and charity and holiness with sobriety”* (I Corinthians 11:3 and I Timothy 2:8-15).

The Scriptures you just read are definite. There is no debate to be had. God has granted man a greater role of authority in this life. Woman was made to be a “help meet” for man (Genesis 2:18-24). Yet, that does not mean that women are just mindless beings that nod and follow all that men say. Even when a woman is married and is supposed to be in subjection to her husband (I Peter 3:1-6), she still only submits as it is fit in the Lord (Colossians 3:18). God has given women a mind. He has given them the ability to make choices. A good woman, following God’s design, has authority from God to exercise some authority. Such is true even in marriage.

A Godly Woman Will Exercise Some Authority In Marriage

Notice: *“Who can find a virtuous woman? for her price is far above rubies. The heart of her husband doth safely trust in her, so that he shall have no need of spoil. She will do him good and not evil all the days of her life. She seeketh wool, and flax, and worketh willingly with her hands. She is like the merchants’ ships; she bringeth her food from afar. She riseth also while it is yet night, and giveth meat to her household, and a portion to her maidens. She considereth a field, and buyeth it: with the fruit of her hands she planteth a vineyard. She girdeth her loins with strength, and strengtheneth her arms. She perceiveth that her merchandise is good: her candle goeth not out by night. She layeth her hands to the spindle, and her hands hold the distaff. She stretcheth out her hand to the poor; yea, she reacheth forth her hands to the needy. She is not afraid of the snow for her household: for all her household are clothed with scarlet. She maketh herself coverings of tapestry; her clothing is*

silk and purple. Her husband is known in the gates, when he sitteth among the elders of the land. She maketh fine linen, and selleth it; and delivereth girdles unto the merchant. Strength and honour are her clothing; and she shall rejoice in time to come. She openeth her mouth with wisdom; and in her tongue is the law of kindness. She looketh well to the ways of her household, and eateth not the bread of idleness. Her children arise up, and call her blessed; her husband also, and he praiseth her. Many daughters have done virtuously, but thou excellest them all. Favour is deceitful, and beauty is vain: but a woman that feareth the LORD, she shall be praised. Give her of the fruit of her hands; and let her own works praise her in the gates” (Proverbs 31:10-31).

Think about what the Bible says regarding parenting. Are children told to only obey their fathers (Proverbs 30:17)? God says: *“Children, obey your parents in the Lord: for this is right. Honour thy father and mother; which is the first commandment with promise”* (Ephesians 6:1-2). What does that necessarily infer? It infers that women, in the home, have authority over their children. She does not need her husband’s permission to have authority over her children. God gives her that authority. She must use it.

The authority a woman has in the home also has a spiritual role. Sometimes, Ephesians 6:4 is referenced and it is made to seem that a woman has no role in the spiritual upbringing of her children. That is not the truth. Consider what Paul said about Timothy’s upbringing: *“When I call to remembrance the unfeigned faith that is in thee, which dwelt first in thy grandmother Lois, and thy mother Eunice; and I am persuaded that in thee also... But continue thou in the things which thou hast learned and hast been assured of, knowing of whom thou hast learned them; And that from a child thou hast known the holy scriptures, which are able to make thee wise unto salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus”* (II Timothy 1:5 and II Timothy 3:14-15). Timothy’s father was not a “believer” (Acts 16:1). It was his mother and grandmother that taught him the will of God. Now listen, a woman’s role in teaching doesn’t stop with her children. It goes on in other, limited, ways.

Women Have An Authoritative Role in Teaching

Older women, in particular, have a role outside of the home in teaching. It is not just limited to them being good examples, which they should be (Matthew 5:14-16). Consider this: *“The aged women likewise, that they be in behaviour as becometh holiness, not false accusers, not given to much wine, teachers of good things; That they may teach the young women to be sober, to love their husbands, to love their children, To be discreet, chaste, keepers at home, good, obedient to their own husbands, that the word of God be not blasphemed”* (Titus 2:3-5).

Conclusion

Our society is ignoring the role of women. Women have been granted, by man, more authority than they should have in some ways. Man is not the standard of authority for us to follow (Galatians 1:10 and Colossians 2:18-23). However, we must be cautious not to overreact to this and teach that women have no authoritative roles. As has been proven in this study, women have some roles wherein they have God-given authority and may exercise such (i.e. I Timothy 5:14). Women, such as Lydia, did things like being hospitable (Acts 16:14-15) without first having to get permission from a man (husband or otherwise). Women can make decisions, good ones at that, and not violate their overall submissive roles.