

Lest We Drift Away
The Place Of A Women
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As the norms and values in society change, the pressure on the church to make similar adaptations increases. The further society moves away from the standards set in the Scriptures, the more radical the principles adhered to by the church seems. This may cause us to revisit the instructions found in the Scriptures and adjust them in order to simulate the changes in society – so we will not look so foolish.

We may use terms such as “obviously” where no such inference is justified, and “surely” to manipulate the response. Those arguments and phrases the denominations use, normally causing us to hiss and shake our heads, may become part of our reasoning. We marvel at the forced interpretations of the Jews, only to be pressured into the same type of unfaithfulness – if we do not **pay much closer attention**. (**Hebrews 2:1-4**)

The intention with this series of articles is to encourage awareness of the fact that we will **drift away** if we do not **pay much closer attention**. We should guard against an intellectual mindset which makes us feel sophisticated about the changes we end up making. The issue I wish to address at this time is the role, or place of women as revealed through the Scriptures. Some may even be offended by the phrase: The *place* of a woman. Notice the age old words directly from God to the woman: **To the woman He said, "I will greatly multiply Your pain in childbirth, In pain you will bring forth children; Yet your desire will be for your husband, And he will rule over you."** (**Genesis 3:16**)

Some may feel that they do not like where this is going. We have become *enlightened*, in the words of one blogger: *"In a day and age where women are fiercely independent and equal to a man in nearly every aspect of society why is there still a belief that woman was made from man?... There is a sentimental quality to this story that people who don't necessarily believe it wholeheartedly still like. Woman was not made from man's head to rule over him. She was not made from his feet to be trod upon. She was not made from his spine to follow after him. She was not made from his chin to lead him. She was made from his rib, to walk beside him, to be sheltered by his arm, and to be close to his heart."*

Even the information about the creation of the woman is rejected. The sentimental story, which is not found in the Bible but often used to negate the “rule over,” contributes towards her emancipation, and therefore *wholeheartedly liked* by some. A male blogger replies: *"...i think it's because women were oppressed for so long..."* The fact that her husband is to *rule*, or *have authority over her* is considered oppression? Before we make it part of the Old Testament to be nailed to the cross: **Your adornment must not be merely external--braiding the hair, and wearing gold jewelry, or putting on dresses; ⁴ but let it be the hidden person of the heart, with the imperishable quality of a gentle and quiet spirit, which is precious in the sight of God. ⁵ For in this way in former times the holy women also, who hoped in God, used to adorn themselves, being submissive to their own husbands; ⁶ just as Sarah obeyed Abraham, calling him**

lord, and you have become her children if you do what is right without being frightened by any fear. (1Peter 3:1-6)

Consider the closing phrase – **if you do what is right without being frightened by any fear**. She does not have to fear the Lord if she obeys Him, however she may very well have to fear the ridicule from society. When we think of the Christian being persecuted, we think jail and lashes; however the persecution may come in the form of ridicule – peer pressure. Look at the instruction in the next verse to the husband: **You husbands in the same way, live with your wives in an understanding way, as with someone weaker, since she is a woman; and show her honor as a fellow heir of the grace of life, so that your prayers will not be hindered. (1Peter 3:7)**

My wife has unique powers given her by God. Powers I will never match to be her equal, such as being able to bear a child. We do have to work together to accomplish this though. Through us God creates. There are many more marked differences between us which makes it easy for us to work together, if we each find and accept our roles given us by God.

Notice the *chain of command*, if you please: **But I want you to understand that Christ is the head of every man, and the man is the head of a woman, and God is the head of Christ. (1 Corinthians 11:3)** The relationship between a husband and a wife is compared to the relationship between Christ and the church. (**Ephesians 5:22-33**) Being head of the church is a loving relationship where the Lord sacrificed Himself for us, and we submit to Him. **So husbands ought also to love their own wives as their own bodies. He who loves his own wife loves himself; in the same way a husband ought to love his wife. (Ephesians 5:28)** Many churches have rebelled against the Lord's **rule over** them. (**1Samuel 10:19**)

Our society supposedly set women free by making them equal to men. We talk of how she is made from man's rib, so and not from a bone in his feet, so she must be trampled upon. (As Abraham did Sarah?) She is not made of a piece of bone from his head, so that she would not sit on it, and then they become elders preachers and teachers... Why not, many in the world call out. Because God is the one who designed us each with our marvelous uniqueness. There are those roles man cannot strip from women, and that is the ability to bear children. This amazing demonstration of the difference between man and woman at the same time emphasizes their working together in love to produce offspring, and in this sense create – a wonderful and powerful gift from God.

God had limited the leadership role to among women, she is not to rule over a man.

Act 2:18 EVEN ON MY BONDSLAVES, BOTH MEN AND WOMEN, I WILL IN THOSE DAYS POUR FORTH OF MY SPIRIT And they shall prophesy.

Act 8:12 But when they believed Philip preaching the good news about the kingdom of God and the name of Jesus Christ, they were being baptized, men and women alike.

Act 9:2 and asked for letters from him to the synagogues at Damascus, so that if he found any belonging to the Way, both men and women, he might bring them bound to Jerusalem.

Act 13:50 But the Jews incited the devout women of prominence and the leading men of the city, and instigated a persecution against Paul and Barnabas, and drove them out of their district.

Act 16:13 And on the Sabbath day we went outside the gate to a riverside, where we were supposing that there would be a place of prayer; and we sat down and began speaking to the women who had assembled.

Act 17:4 And some of them were persuaded and joined Paul and Silas, along with a large number of the God-fearing Greeks and a number of the leading women.

Act 17:12 Therefore many of them believed, along with a number of prominent Greek women and men.

Act 22:4 "I persecuted this Way to the death, binding and putting both men and women into prisons,

Rom 1:26 For this reason God gave them over to degrading passions; for their women exchanged the natural function for that which is unnatural,

1Co 14:34 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.

Php 4:3 Indeed, true companion, I ask you also to help these women who have shared my struggle in *the cause of* the gospel, together with Clement also and the rest of my fellow workers, whose names are in the book of life.

1Ti 2:8-15 Therefore I want the men in every place to pray, lifting up holy hands, without wrath and dissension. (9) Likewise, *I want* women to adorn themselves with proper clothing, modestly and discreetly, not with braided hair and gold or pearls or costly garments, (10) but rather by means of good works, as is proper for women making a claim to godliness. (11) A woman must quietly receive instruction with entire submissiveness. (12) But I do not allow a woman to teach or exercise authority over a man, but to remain quiet. (13) For it was Adam who was first created, *and* then Eve. (14) And *it was* not Adam *who* was deceived, but the woman being deceived, fell into transgression. (15) But *women* will be preserved through the bearing of children if they continue in faith and love and sanctity with self-restraint.

1Ti 5:9-10 A widow is to be put on the list only if she is not less than sixty years old, *having been* the wife of one man, (10) having a reputation for good works; *and* if she has brought up children, if she has shown hospitality to strangers, if she has washed the saints' feet, if she has assisted those in distress, *and* if she has devoted herself to every good work.

Tit 2:3-4 Older women likewise are to be reverent in their behavior, not malicious gossips nor enslaved to much wine, teaching what is good, (4) so that they may encourage the young women to love their husbands, to love their children,

1Pe 3:1-7 In the same way, you wives, be submissive to your own husbands so that even if any *of them* are disobedient to the word, they may be won without a word by the behavior of their wives, (2) as they observe your chaste and respectful behavior. (3) Your adornment must not be *merely* external--braiding the hair, and wearing gold jewelry, or putting on dresses; (4) but *let it be* the hidden person of the heart, with the imperishable quality of a gentle and quiet spirit, which is precious in the sight of God. (5) For in this way in former times the holy women also, who hoped in God, used to adorn themselves, being submissive to their own husbands; (6) just as Sarah obeyed Abraham, calling him lord, and you have become her children if you do what is right without being frightened by any fear. 7 You husbands in the same way, live with *your wives* in an understanding way, as with someone weaker, since she is a woman; and show her honor as a fellow heir of the grace of life, so that your prayers will not be hindered.

1Co 11:3-15 But I want you to understand that Christ is the head of every man, and the man is the head of a woman, and God is the head of Christ. (4) Every man who has *something* on his head while praying or prophesying disgraces his head. (5) But every woman who has her head uncovered while praying or prophesying disgraces her head, for she is one and the same as the woman whose head is shaved. (6) For if a woman does not cover her head, let her also have her hair cut off; but if it is disgraceful for a woman to have her hair cut off or her head shaved, let her cover her head. (7) For a man ought not to have his head covered, since he is the image and glory of God; but the woman is the glory of man. (8) For man does not originate from woman, but woman from man; (9) for indeed man was not created for the woman's sake, but woman for the man's sake. (10) Therefore the woman ought to have *a symbol of* authority on her head, because of the angels. (11) However, in the Lord, neither is woman independent of man, nor is man independent of woman. (12) For as the woman originates from the man, so also the man *has his birth* through the woman; and all things originate from God. (13) Judge for yourselves: is it proper for a woman to pray to God *with her head* uncovered? 14 Does not even nature itself teach you that if a man has long hair, it is a dishonor to him, (15) but if a woman has long hair, it is a glory to her? For her hair is given to her for a covering.

1Co 14:34-37 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. (35) 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. (36) Was it from you that the word of God *first* went forth? Or has it come to you only? (37) 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.

1Co 11:22 What! Do you not have houses in which to eat and drink? Or do you despise the church of God and shame those who have nothing? What shall I say to you? Shall I praise you? In this I will not praise you.

Act 2:46 Day by day continuing with one mind in the temple, and breaking bread from house to house, they were taking their meals together with gladness and sincerity of heart,

Rom 14:22 The faith which you have, have as your own conviction before God. Happy is he who does not condemn himself in what he approves.