

Women Should Not Have Authority Over Men In Church

'I want you to know, Jesus is the Head of every man, the head of a woman is her husband and the Head of Jesus is God. Every man praying or prophesying, having his head covered (by the authority of a woman), dishonours his Head (Jesus). Every woman praying or prophesying with her head uncovered (by authority) dishonours her head (husband). It is the same as if she were shaved (like a dishonoured woman once was in that ancient culture). If a woman is not covered (by authority), let her be shorn (dishonoured). If it is shameful for a woman to be shorn (dishonoured), let her be covered (by authority). A man indeed ought not to have his head covered (by the authority of a woman), because he is the image and glory of God (so his function of leadership reflects the majesty of the divine rule), but the woman is the glory of the man. Man was not created from woman, but woman from man. Neither was man created for the woman, but woman for the man. For this reason the woman ought to have authority on her head to avoid displeasing the angels. In the Lord, the woman is not independent of the man, nor the man independent of the woman, for as woman came from man, so a man is born of a woman. All things are from God. Judge for yourselves. Is it appropriate for a woman to pray publicly to God uncovered (dishonoured)? Nature itself teaches you, if a man has long hair it is a disgrace to him. If a woman has long hair, it is a glory to her, for her hair is given to her for a covering (so she is not disgraced). If anyone is being contentious about this, we (the early church) accept no other worship than this, nor do the assemblies (churches) of God generally' (1 Corinthians 11:3 to 16).

We must make one point very clear. These verses are not talking about women's hats or veils. Wearing hats or veils in church was introduced because people misunderstood the above verses as meaning literal items of headwear. These verses are talking about the covering of our heads by divine authority, and the mention of long hair was an earthly example of spiritual instructions. The divine succession of authority – God then Jesus then the church then men then women then children, is an eternal example for us to follow on earth because the divine succession is exercised in heaven. In the throne room in the highest heaven, God rules supreme then Jesus then in God's divine succession He has all of His holy created beings who are equal – angels, cherubim, seraphim and the redeemed of all of mankind who have accepted the blood of Jesus and who walk with Him in obedience. The Lord wants us to understand this so He had Apostle Paul write, "I want you to know," to get it firmly in our heads, take it into our hearts, not dismiss it, and we are not to take it lightly, in the divine order of succession of authority, women should never have authority over men in the church because it dishonours Jesus. How many men would feel comfortable about being a disgrace to Jesus by allowing a woman to be his head? If people are happy with God being the Head of Jesus, then if they are happy with Jesus being the Head of the church and also of every man, why do they get upset with the continuation of the divine order, the husband being the head of every woman? Where there is no husband, then the father, stepfather, uncle, grandfather, brother or church elders may act in the place of authority in the woman's life. That is scriptural.

'Wives, be subject to your own husbands as a service to the Lord. The husband is the head of the wife as Jesus is Head of the church, Himself the Saviour of His Body. As the church is subject to Jesus, so let wives be subject in everything to their husbands' (Ephesians 5:22 to 24). This is an issue that can keep people out of God's will and therefore out His Kingdom. The Lord is not pleased with women's liberation because women should never have authority over men. Sadly though, women's liberation has seeped into the modern-day church, and God's teaching on this subject is discarded by many as just being the culture of the day during the writing of the New Testament. That attitude is so wrong because that infers some of the Bible is outdated, something we all know is untrue. The Lord expects women to be submissive to their husbands today, just as they were to be so when the scriptures were written. The Lord's instruction applies as much today as it did in Jesus' day, but this generation chooses to ignore God's divine order as being passé. They do not realise it is not in the past, but is our future in the Kingdom of God and is to be exercised here on earth. People disagreed with Paul on this matter 2,000 years ago, so it is no surprise people still disagree with what is written. Remember, all scripture is God-breathed (2 Timothy 3:16) for instruction to conform us to God's will and all scripture must be obeyed. We cannot pick and choose which verses we will adhere to, and which verses to ignore. The only two occasions a woman can reject her headship's authority would be (1) in the event she was asked to do something she knew would contravene the scriptures and cause her to sin, then she would have the right to refuse, or (2) for example, if her husband or father forbade her baptism, when baptism is a commandment as a sign of obedience to the Lord. We must always obey God before we obey man (Acts 5:29).

In New Testament times, a woman who was caught in prostitution would sometimes have her head shaved as a sign of her disgrace. Once her hair grew back, she was no longer considered dishonoured. A woman who usurped the authority of men was considered a disgrace in the same manner, and it may surprise some people, it even displeases the angels when women act in a domineering way as we read in the opening verses. If it displeases the angels, how much more would it displease the Lord? When God says 'every' women who has her head uncovered by divine authority is disgraced, He means every woman, and God

means what He says. Can we understand, the early church would not recognise a woman's authority over a man? It was considered a disgrace. If people today really want to base their churches on the early church, this is one area they will have to put right.

Older women were given a place of authority in the early church – over younger women and children. 'Bid the older women to be reverent in their behaviour, not slanderers or slaves to alcohol. They are to be teachers of what is right so they may train the young women to love their husbands and children, to be self-controlled, chaste, homemakers, good-natured, subordinating themselves to their husbands, so the Word of God may not be blasphemed' (Titus 2:3 to 5). Men are not saviours to women because there is only one Saviour, Jesus 'Himself the Saviour of His Body'. Women do not need men in order to get into heaven, they need only the Lord Jesus. As members of His overall Body of believers, men and women are joint heirs and equal in the sight of God. 'You are all children of God through faith in Jesus. You were baptised into Jesus, have put on Jesus so there is now no distinction. There is neither Jew nor Gentile, there is neither slave nor free man, there is neither male nor female, for you are all one in Jesus the Messiah' (Galatians 3:26 to 28). A Christian wife can lead her unsaved husband to the Lord by being submissive. 'You married women, be submissive to your own husbands so even if any husbands do not obey the Word of God, they may be won over, not by discussion but by the pure and Godly lives of their wives in fear of the Lord. Let your beauty not be only outward adorning ... but the hidden person within the heart, in the adornment of a gentle and quiet spirit which is very precious in the sight of God' (1 Peter 3:1 to 4).

For the Lord to have these scriptures included in the Bible, so strongly, so many times, He would have meant what He said at that time, and we are not to have the opinion such teaching is 'old-fashioned'. The Bible is the unchangeable Word of God, to be obeyed for all time. These scriptures may not be popular in today's society, but to continue giving women authority over men, or women usurping men's God-given authority in the churches, is to rebel against God and suffer the consequences. At best, it could stunt spiritual growth and keep people in the realm of an arrogant young Christian or at worst, it could keep people out of heaven. The Lord does not allow women to have authority over men.

There are two verses that tell women to be silent in church, but that was about women talking and chattering throughout the service and has little to do with divine authority, except of course, Apostle Paul exercised his divine authority to tell them to be quiet and stop chattering. They had not been asked to speak and were being an annoyance. Apparently, the women were asking their husbands questions about the service instead of being quiet, listening and learning as we all should when in church. 'The women should keep quiet in the churches for they are not authorised to speak. Let them be submissive as the Law says, but if they desire to learn anything, let them ask their own husbands at home for it is shameful for a woman to chatter in the church' (1 Corinthians 14:34 & 35). 'Let a woman learn in silence (in the church), in submissiveness. I allow no woman to teach or have authority over men. She is to remain quiet in the assembly, for Adam was formed first, then Eve, and it was not Adam who was deceived, but it was the woman who was deceived and they fell into disobedience. She will be saved through the birth of the Divine Child if she continues in faith, love and holiness' (1 Timothy 2:11 to 15).

For a woman to take an authoritative place over a man in church is against God's divine order, that is why a woman should never be the head pastor of a church. The Bible says it is a disgrace. It is God's divine order for a man to be the head and under his headship, women can serve God in the church. Are you the husband of a woman who is the head pastor of a church? You and your wife are both out of divine order and the order must be corrected according to the scriptures. Are you a single woman who is the head pastor of a church? You are out of divine order and you need to pray and ask God to raise up a man who can be the head. Are you a religious woman seeking to be ordained by a main-stream church so you can lead your own church? You are out of divine order. You can serve God in the full sense without usurping the authority God gave to men. Do you disagree with this text? You are not alone. People argued about this same issue 2,000 years ago. Do you agree with this text? Then may the peace of our Lord Jesus be upon you. Many women have a beautiful gift of teaching given to her by God, but let her exercise that gift within the boundaries of God's order of things and let her not usurp the rightful place of male headship which is God-given. There is nothing wrong with women sharing knowledge or experiences to the congregation, or leading worship, or speaking in a home group, or prophesying, or praying for others in the church, as long as it is done with the blessing of her husband and the church leadership. There are hundreds of different tasks needing to be done in the church that women can do, without slipping out from under the headship of the church.

Domineering women are a terror in some churches. They are often pushy, aggressive, bossy, intolerant and argumentative. Their husbands are often subservient to them. We have heard the phrase, 'She wears the pants in that family'. The Lord even outlines what clothing men and women should wear. 'The woman will not wear clothing that pertains to a man, neither will a man put on a woman's garment, for all who do so are an abomination to the Lord your God' (Deuteronomy 22:5). Men are not to wear clothing designed for women,

and women are not to wear clothing designed for men. God says it is an abomination. How many woman pastors do we know, who wear trousers to show their 'authority'? Not only are woman pastors usurping men's God-given leadership, but the fact the woman pastor often wear men's trousers – which are clothes that pertain to men – is an abomination to the Lord our God. It is not so much the wearing of trousers, which of course can be specifically designed to be worn by women – there is nothing wrong with that – it is the dominant authority the trousers give the women. Do these women feel as authoritative in floral dresses? No! That is why they wear trousers to emulate men. In modern terms, it is sometimes called 'power-dressing'. They dress to show their 'power'. Churches run by these dominatrix are out of God's expressly given order of things and her clothing is an abomination to God, if she wears trousers to show her domination. It is no wonder these churches are filled with Christians who are immature in God when the leadership is out of line. There is no record of an early church in the New Testament that was run by a woman, and those churches are the example we should follow today. Most certainly the women were fully active in the churches and there were many women who were mentioned as being wonderful sisters in the Body; some were even deaconesses, but none were the head of any church. That is God's divine order of things and God does not change! The Lord has no respect for submissive men, and only allows women to be dominant because of sin and backsliding, or carnal behaviour. 'How long will you go here and there you backsliding daughter? The Lord has created a new thing on the earth; a woman will encompass (protect, woo, win and dominate) a man' (Jeremiah 31:22). Jezebel was the only woman in the scriptures who refused to submit to her subservient husband Ahab, but dominated him mercilessly. She was a controlling, manipulative, murderous, heartless, idolator who ended up being tossed over a high wall and eaten by dogs. Her name in Hebrew means 'chaste, pure or virginal'. She was one person who did not live up to her name!

Women who are head pastors are often very aggressive, domineering, manipulative women who love to be in control. They set themselves up as head pastors and 'prophetesses'. They are frequently the disciplinarian in the home and usually have quiet husbands who let her rule. Many are divorced from their husbands. They like to control and dominate any friendship or relationship they are in and are often bitter towards men. They hate being told they are out of God's divine order and usually – and sometimes aggressively – refuse to listen to sound teaching from the Bible, especially this topic. They control a prayer group by speaking loudly and often correct other people who are praying. Such women regard meekness and humility as signs of weakness and will sometimes openly mock women who are submissive to their husbands. If the woman was meek and obedient to the Lord and her husband as she should be, she would never consider a leadership role and would serve the Lord as the scriptures clearly tell us. Domineering women are often attention seeking types who crave recognition. They are often nasty to people for no reason. Some of these women have been known to use prayer and the Word of God almost like witchcraft. They bring fear to even strong Godly men like Jezebel did to Elijah, and it took a lot of encouragement from the Lord Himself to get Elijah back on his spiritual feet again (1 Kings 19:2 to 21).

There is an evil spirit behind such domineering behaviour in a woman. It is commonly called a Jezebel spirit and is fully accepted by the church she leads, however, the Lord holds that sin against the whole church and considers her behaviour on a par with being sexually immoral. 'I (Jesus) have this against you (the church), you tolerate your woman Jezebel who calls herself a prophetess. She teaches and seduces my servants ... I gave her time to repent but she refuses to repent of her immorality. Behold, I will throw her into a bed (of suffering), and those who tolerate her into great oppression, unless they repent of her works. I will kill her children with death and all the assemblies will know, I am He who searches the minds and hearts. I will give to each one of you according to your deeds' (Revelation 2:20 to 23). These verses are very awe-inspiring and should bring the fear of the Lord's judgement into the hearts of people who tolerate and accept a woman as their head pastor or minister. The Lord will hold the whole church accountable. Notice two things; (1) she set herself up as a 'prophetess' or church leader and (2) the whole church has to repent of her deeds. The Lord never contradicts His own Word, so the Lord would never set a woman up in leadership. Indeed, this verse says she set herself up as the leader. If you are attending a church lead by a woman, challenge her with this text and watch her reaction. If she is genuinely ignorant of the scriptures then she will take immediate steps to come under the authority of a man and obey God's divine order. If she reacts with anger then you will know she has a Jezebel spirit and it would be wise to find another church that is in line with God's divine order. Remember, it is an eternal, heavenly succession of authority. Would you really want to attend a church that is predominantly run by an evil spirit? A church where the Lord holds you accountable for tolerating that same evil spirit as your leader? We are speaking of a church with a woman at its head and with men who are being submissive to her. We are certainly not speaking about a wife whose husband is the head of a church and she is his God-given support for his calling. When a woman is in submission to her husband, as the scriptures say she is to be, then the wife is invaluable and precious to her husband and the church. That is a God-ordained balance.

This in no way means a husband can be unkind or violent towards his wife or children. Men must be kind and loving to their wives and children, and wives must be in submission to their husbands. Women are not to

be downtrodden, bullied or physically struck. They can have an opinion while maintaining submission. The Lord hates men who act violently towards their wives. 'The Lord, the God of Israel says, "I hate divorce and marital separation and he who covers his wife with violence. Therefore keep a watch on your spirit (attitude) so you do not deal treacherously with your marriage mate"' (Malachi 2:16). Are you as a husband prepared to give your life up for your wife? Do you love your wife as much as you love yourself? 'Husbands, love your wives as Jesus loved the church and gave Himself up for her ... Husbands should love their wives as being in a sense, their own bodies. He who loves his own wife loves himself. No man ever hated his own flesh but cherishes it, as Jesus does the church ... Let each man love his wife as being in a sense his very own self' (Ephesians 5:25 to 33). Fathers are to be good to their children. 'Fathers, do not provoke your children to anger, but rear them tenderly, in the admonition of the Lord' (Ephesians 6:4). If a husband does not treat his wife well, then God will not answer the man's prayers and will in fact, cut his prayers off. 'You married men, live considerately with your wives with understanding, honouring the woman as physically the weaker vessel, but realising you are joint heirs of the grace of life, so your prayers may not be hindered, blocked or cut off' (1 Peter 3:7).

There were some very strong women mentioned in the Bible who did outstanding things for God, but they all came under the authority of their husbands, fathers, brothers, cousin, Rabbis or other men in their lives. They wholly accepted God's divine order and prospered. Sarah became the mother to all Hebrews and an ancestor to Jesus. The ancient Hebrews are today's Jewish people and Sarah is 'mother' to all born-again Christians through her Descendant, Jesus. Leah became the mother of Judah from whom Jesus' lineage came. Miriam was a prophetess, song and dance leader, and the Jewish people still emulate her songs, dance and music today. The five daughters of Zelophehad, Mahlah, Noah, Hoglah, Milcah and Tirzah helped change the law so daughters could inherit land – a law that is still in use today. Deborah was a judge, braver than her army chief. He refused to go to war unless Deborah was with him. Ruth became another ancestor of Jesus. Esther helped save the entire Jewish population in the Persian Empire. Huldah helped bring repentance and peace to Israel. Hannah gave her eldest son Samuel to the Lord. Abigail's quick thinking helped prevent judgement coming on Israel then she married King David. Anna told all who were seeking their Redeemer, the Messiah had finally come. Mary, daughter of Heli became the mother of Jesus. Elisabeth became the mother of John the Baptist. Martha, Joanna, Susanna and Salome served Jesus during His ministry. Mary Magdalene anointed Jesus before His death and burial and was the first person to see Him after His resurrection. Phoebe, Chloe, Lois, Prisca, Julia, Olympas, Eunice and many other women devotedly served the Lord in the early church. Philip the Evangelist's four daughters all had the gift of prophecy. There are many other women spoken of in the Bible as being dedicated women who all served the Lord with gladness and sincerity, all under the headship of someone. None of these women argued about being submissive to the divine authority figure in their lives and all of them have had their marvellous lives recorded in history. 'This is how the ancient holy women who hoped in God adorned themselves, by being in subjection to their own husbands as Sarah obeyed Abraham, calling him lord, whose children you are now, if you do well' (1 Peter 3:5 & 6).

Amen and God bless you.

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