

Strange Things You Hear About The Church of Christ
“You Oppress Women”
Galatians 3:26-28
(Adapted from a lesson by Jack Williams)
By Russ Earl

Thesis: I want to show the truth regarding women & the Bible.

Intro:

1. Another thing you hear sometimes regarding the church is that women are oppressed, unable to reach their full potential.
2. Of course this is far from the truth. One only looks to God’s Word to understand the proper role of women as taught by faithful churches of Christ.

I. The Role of Women in the Church

When the church began on the Day of Pentecost, women, as well as men, came into it in great numbers (**Acts 5:14**). There were no distinctions made in conditions of membership between the sexes. Furthermore, the importance of women to the whole church is reflected by the concern which the early church had for widows who needed care and help (**Acts 6:1**).

The good works of women are frequently mentioned in Scripture.

- Dorcas is cited as an example of faithful, loving service (**Acts 9:36-39**).
- Lydia is revealed as being a woman of great hospitality, "constraining" Paul and his company to abide in her house (**Acts 16:1-15**).
- Phoebe is described as a "servant of the church that is in Cenchreae" (**Romans 16:10**).

II. While There Are No Distinctions as to Worth, There Are Different Roles

Although the church is to hold unswervingly to the view that women and men are equally valuable in the eyes of God, it must also reflect the New Testament teaching that men and women are to fill different roles in the church.

A. Women teaching

1. The woman's role in the private teaching of God's Word is also referenced in Scripture. In **Acts 18:26** Priscilla, with her husband, Aquila, privately taught a good, but misinformed preacher (Apollos) "the way of God more accurately."
2. Although women can teach privately, as we learned from the example of Priscilla, women are forbidden to teach men publicly (**1 Tim. 2:12**). The common practice today of women being accepted as preachers is not a practice approved in the New Testament and should not be practiced in the church (**1 Cor. 14:34-35**).
3. Young Men & Older Men; Young ladies & Older ladies (**Titus 2:3-5**)
4. Women’s rights & the Bible

The great emphasis today on the rights of women should not cause Christians to question the Lord's forbidding women to assume certain roles in the church.

Consider the following:

1. The man must care for and provide for his wife and love her as Christ loved the church (**Ephesians 5:25**). The woman's willing submission to her husband is most likely to call forth the best of his care (**Eph. 5:22,33**). In order for there to be the greatest amount of happiness in the

home, God has established different roles for men and women in the home. This difference is likewise to be reflected in the church.

III. Oppression or Obedience?

1. Is it oppression or obedience if women are permitted to speak at Ladies days but not at Gospel Meetings?
2. Is it oppression or obedience if women are permitted to teach ladies classes and children but not mixed classes with men?
3. Is it oppression or obedience for women to be subjection to their husbands?
4. This verse applies to everyone, not just men (**Acts 5:29**).

Conc:

1. When man's teachings and God's teachings do not agree, which should we choose?
2. It is clear there was no "oppression" in the first century and neither should there be today. '
3. There are many good works available to all who determine to follow Christ, but these works must be completed within the confines of what God teaches.