

1-15-23 – What’s the Bible’s “Story” on Women’s Role in the Church?

Acts 2:17-18 – *“In the last days, God says, I will pour out my Spirit on all people. Your sons and daughters will prophesy, your young men will see visions, your old men will dream dreams. Even on my servants, both men and women, I will pour out my Spirit in those days, and they will prophesy.”*

Joel 2:28-29 – *“I will pour out my Spirit on all people. Your sons and daughters will prophesy, your old men will dream dreams, your young men will see visions. Even on my servants, both men and women, I will pour out my Spirit in those days.”*

Inherited method of interpreting and following scripture:

- Direct Command
- Authorized Example
- Necessary Inference

Leads me to two texts:

- 1 Cor 14:34 – *“Women should remain silent in the churches. They are not allowed to speak, but must be in submission, as the Law says.”*
- 1 Tim 2:11-12 – *“A woman should learn in quietness and full submission. I do not permit a woman to teach or to have authority over a man; she must be silent.”*

Nowhere in scripture can I find this approach to scripture. What lenses does scripture say we should use for approaching scripture?

Examine: why do we approach scripture at all? John 5:39-40 – *“You diligently study the Scriptures because you think that by them you possess eternal life. These are the Scriptures that testify about me, yet you refuse to come to me to have life.”*

What lenses then DOES THE BIBLE tell me to read the Bible through?

- Love – Matt 22: 37-40
- Wisdom – 2 Tim 3:15-16
- Story – Mt 5:17; Lk 24:27; Jn 5:46

For more on these lenses, see Fall 2019 sermon series on “The Bible”

Focus on the lens of “Story” and ask 2 questions:

- How do we live under the Authority of a story?
- What’s the Story, then, concerning women’s role in the church?

NT Wright example of finding Shakespeare 6 act play with part of Act 5 missing!

- If we want to act it out, we would have to “make up” the rest of Act 5.
- How? By using the authority of the story that is already revealed!

The Bible has weaving through all of it’s 66 books the metanarrative, the revealed Story of God.

Act 1: CREATION
Act 2: THE FALL OF MAN
Act 3: PROMISES MADE
Act 4: PROMISES KEPT
Act 5: NEW CREATION/NEW HUMANITY/TIME OF THE CHURCH
ACT 6: HEAVEN

We have all of Acts 1-4, and we know how it ends in Acts 6, but we only have part of Act 5.

So that is how with live under the authority of the Bible as a story. When we live under the authority scripture, we are to take ALL of scripture, and the story it tells, and do in OUR TIME what Jesus did in HIS TIME – FULFILL IT!

So... what's THE story concerning God's Kingdom plan for women & men in the church?

Gen 1:26-28 – *"Then God said, "Let us make man in our image, in our likeness, and **let them rule** over the fish of the sea and the birds of the air, over the livestock, over all the earth, and over all the creatures that move along the ground." 27 So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them. 28 **God blessed them and said to them,** "Be fruitful and increase in number; fill the earth and subdue it. **Rule** over the fish of the sea and the birds of the air and over every living creature that moves on the ground."*

Gen 3:16 – *"To the woman he said, "I will greatly increase your pains in childbearing; with pain you will give birth to children. Your desire will be for your husband, and he will rule over you."*

Luke 19:10 – *"For the Son of Man came to seek and to save what was lost."*

Gal 3:26-29 – *"You are all sons of God through faith in Christ Jesus, 27 for all of you who were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ. 28 There is neither Jew nor Greek, slave nor free, male nor female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus."*

"Authorized Examples" in the Bible of Paul's "Direct Commands" not being followed.

- Exodus 15:20; Micah 6:4 – Miriam
- Judges 4:4 – Deborah
- Esther – Esther
- 2 Kings 22:14-2 - Huldah
- Luke 2:36-38 – Anna
- John 4:39-42 – Woman at the Well
- John 20:10-18 – Mary Magdelene
- Acts 18:26; Rom 16:3-4 – Priscilla
- Acts 21:9 – The Daughters of Phillip
- Romans 16:1-2 – Phoebe the deaconess
- Romans 16:7 – Junia the apostle
- 1 Corinthians 11:5 – Women Praying and Prophesying within the church
- Colossians 4:15 – Nympha