

# What About Women?

From time to time a church will hold a special series on the role of women in religion. Unfortunately, many of these events pervert the Bible's teaching concerning women.

Let us be clear, women are honored and revered in the Bible and should be today. From the virtuous wife of Proverbs 31, to the mother and grandmother of Timothy, the Bible describes women who serve God and family in righteousness. However, the role of a women is governed by the gospel, as is the role of man.

The New Testament reveals male leadership in the church (cf. 1 Cor. 11:3). Elders (pastors, bishops) are to be men (1 Tim. 3:1-7; Titus 1:5-9). Deacons are to be men (1 Tim. 3:8-13). Preachers are to be men (1 Tim. 2:11-14). There is no positive divine authority for a woman to fill any of these roles. Therefore, one who would dare do so is in violation of God's will.

Is there any role for women? Yes! They can be instrumental in teaching one who is not a Christian (Acts 18:26). Women can help lead other women in holy living (Titus 2:3-4). Women who are Christians can be a powerful influence on her unbelieving husband (1 Pet. 3:1-5). Too, they can teach their children or grandchildren, and other children, the word of God (2 Tim. 1:5).

Among the things older women are told to do, is to teach younger women "to love their children" and be "homemakers" (Titus 2:4-5). One of the great blessings women have been given is the duty of taking care of the home. A mother is one of the greatest, if not the greatest, influence on her children--as long as she is the one who raises them. She forms the values and guides the precious souls God has given her. The privilege of keeping the home is desperately needed and women should feel honored to receive it.

Steven F. Deaton