

# **‘WOMEN ORDAINED TO BE MINISTERS IN THE MINISTRY OF CHRIST JESUS’**

Revised 24<sup>th</sup> May 2016

MOUNT ZION 7TH DAY CHURCH OF GOD (UK  
INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE)

## **WHAT DOES THE BIBLE SAY ABOUT WOMEN IN THE MINISTRY OF CHRIST JESUS?**

From the International President & Bishop Eric Satford Henry Dip.  
Theo. MIET (Desk) 24<sup>th</sup> May 2016

During my years within the body of Christ Jesus there has always been controversy and confusion with many organisations, church leaders and church members about whether women should be permitted to speak or teach in the local church assemblies. With all of this going on there is no sensible understanding of the matter. I wrote a document on this subject ‘Should Women Remain “Silent” or be allowed to Speak or Teach in the Congregation (Church) on 2<sup>nd</sup> December 2011. This can be seen on the organisation website.

I am moved again by the Holy Spirit to write this second document to try and bring about a better understanding of what the bible clearly says regarding 'Women preaching, teaching, remaining silent or speaking', and where the Mount Zion 7th Day Church of God (UK International Conference) stands on the issue in the local church assemblies. I would suggest that all those who would read this revised document, will do so with an open mind, without any preconceived ideas, and allow the Holy Spirit to control your mode of thinking. I am hoping this document brings new light and new understanding to the written scriptures.

The text's I will be referring to are 1<sup>st</sup> Timothy 2:8-12 & Corinthians 14:34-40, God bless you as you read.

Note: - The attached papers used with this document are as follows:

- 1) Notes from my Theological studies - Elementary Theology the Five 'W's
- 2) Copies of Research notes from the New King James Version Nelson Study Bible

What Does the Bible Say About Women in Ministry?

Frequently Asked Questions

- What does the Bible say about women ministers, pastors or priests?
- What role should women play in the church?

- Are women not allowed to speak in church?

The question of women ministers, pastors, priests, etc., is controversial within Christianity. Many of the larger Christian denominations -- Anglican, Episcopal, Evangelical Lutheran, United Methodist, Presbyterian (USA), United Church of Christ, etc. -- do ordain women. The Roman Catholic and Orthodox Churches do not. There are a number of ordained Baptist women, but the Southern Baptist Convention now opposes ordination of women.

At Mount Zion 7<sup>th</sup> Day Church of God (UK International Conference) we do not ordain women to be priest or pastors, but we ordained Women as Evangelist Ministers of the Gospel of Jesus Christ to work alongside Pastors and Bishops. The reason for this is because we strongly believe according to the scriptures, that God has ordained the male to be the head of his family, home and the church and women shall not usurp their authority over the (male) men. **1 Timothy 2:12; 'But I permit not a woman to teach, nor to have authority over the man, but to be in silence'**.

The Leadership of Mount Zion will not ordain females to be in charge of a local church. However, if a situation arises where leadership is required in any assembly and there are no suitable male, then an Evangelist female minister will be put in that post until such a man is found for the office.

#### Old Testament Example

Women were mostly in a subservient role, but a number of women were mentioned as leaders and prophets of Israel, including Miriam ([Exodus 15:20](#) **"Then Miriam the prophetess, the sister of Aaron, took the timbrel in her hand; and all the women went out after her with timbrels and with dances"**) Deborah ([Judges 4:4-5](#)), Esther ([Esther 4:15-17](#)), Huldah ([2 Kings 22:14](#)) and Athaliah ([2 Chronicles 22:10-12](#)).

#### The New Testament

##### Jesus' Example

Jesus chose only men as His twelve apostles ([Mark 3:13-19](#)), and that is sometimes cited as a reason that only men should be appointed to church leadership roles. However, Jesus sent His apostles out to spread the gospel to the world, seeking food and shelter where they could find it, facing great danger and ultimately martyrdom. This would not have been considered an appropriate role for a woman in Biblical times, just as it would not be considered appropriate today.

Jesus did have a number of women among His larger circle of disciples ([Matthew 27:55-56](#) **"<sup>55</sup>And many women who followed Jesus from Galilee, ministering to**

Him, were there looking on from afar,<sup>56</sup> among whom were Mary Magdalene, Mary the mother of James and Joses, and the mother of Zebedee's sons. (Mark [15:40-41](#), Luke [8:1-3](#), [23:49](#), John [20:14-18](#)).

### The Early Church

A number of women held important positions in the early Christian churches ([Acts 1:1-14](#)).

In many church circles it is loosely said that God only deals with men, and it was only 12 men (the apostles) that were present in the upper room on the day of Pentecost. The 14th verse of Acts 2 below refutes all of this nonsense.

The Upper Room Prayer Meeting and the arrival of The Holy Spirit Acts 2:1-21

<sup>1</sup>“When the Day of Pentecost had fully come, they were all with one accord in one place. <sup>2</sup>And suddenly there came a sound from heaven, as of a rushing mighty wind, and it filled the whole house where they were sitting. <sup>3</sup>Then there appeared to them divided tongues, as of fire, and one sat upon each of them. <sup>4</sup>And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance”.

<sup>12</sup>Then they returned to Jerusalem from the mount called Olivet, which is near Jerusalem, a Sabbath day's journey. <sup>13</sup>And when they had entered, they went up into the upper room where they were staying: Peter, James, John, and Andrew; Philip and Thomas; Bartholomew and Matthew; James the son of Alpheus and Simon the Zealot; and Judas the son of James. <sup>14</sup>These all continued with one accord in prayer and supplication, with the women and Mary the mother of Jesus, and with His brothers”.

### Peter's Sermon

Acts 2: 14-21

<sup>14</sup>But Peter, standing up with the eleven, raised his voice and said to them, “Men of Judea and all who dwell in Jerusalem, let this be known to you, and heed my words. <sup>15</sup>For these are not drunk, as you suppose, since it is only the third hour of the day. <sup>16</sup>But this is what was spoken by the prophet Joel:”

Acts 2:17-21

<sup>17</sup>“And it shall come to pass in the last days, says God,  
That I will pour out of My Spirit on all flesh;  
Your sons and your daughters shall prophesy,  
Your young men shall see visions,  
Your old men shall dream dreams.

<sup>18</sup>And on My menservants and on My maidservants

I will pour out My Spirit in those days;  
And they shall prophesy.

<sup>19</sup> I will show wonders in heaven above  
And signs in the earth beneath:  
Blood and fire and vapour of smoke.

<sup>20</sup>The sun shall be turned into darkness,  
And the moon into blood,  
Before the coming of the great and awesome day of the Lord.

<sup>21</sup>And it shall come to pass  
That whoever calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved”.

Peter made a statement in **Acts 2:14-21** and I quote; <sup>16</sup>“But this is what was spoken by the prophet Joel: <sup>17</sup>‘And it shall come to pass in the last days, says God, that I will pour out of My Spirit on all flesh; your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, your young men shall see visions, your old men shall dream dreams <sup>18</sup>And on My menservants and on My maidservants I will pour out My Spirit in those days; and they shall prophesy”.

The above statement was made by the prophet Joel 100s of years before. Peter referred to the scriptures in Acts 2: 17-18 which was made before Paul addressed the women to be silent in the book of Timothy and 1 Corinthians Chapter 14.

Note: - God is not a man; He does not think like man, He does not behave as men. God is all spirit, having absolute power and authority to do whatever He will. God is transcendent (above the range of normal physical man); **HE IS THE HOLY SPIRIT WHO HAS NO GENDER**. Hence those who are recipients of the Holy Spirit were men and women (male and female) to carry out the work of Christ Jesus

Galatians 3:28 states

“There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free, there is neither male nor female; for you are all one in Christ Jesus”.

The reason why we the Church look at the Church in the form of gender is because Jesus (God) took upon Himself flesh to redeem fallen man back to Him. (Philippians 2: 6-8 refers) This is because He is spirit having all power and authority.

This Spirit (the mighty power of God) could not deal directly with mankind in redeeming them that is why as I have already said He became flesh to redeem man. Let me use the example of an electrical engineering terminology in reference to redeeming man; let me use an example for reference sake and look at God as a high voltage 33000 volts system emanating from a generating station. This type of

voltage could never come directly to our homes, industries, offices and automobiles for us to use for our daily consumption.

What happens in a situation like this is that different types of transformers are used to decrease the high voltage to a decreased low voltage system say between 400v, 220v, 110v, 24v, 12v etc.

Looking at the above example I use in this document, metaphorically speaking that is how the Word was made flesh and dwelt amongst us. Jesus came by the Holy Spirit through the Virgin Mary in order to work with us. In all this Greatness, is the mystery of godliness **1 Timothy 3:16** <sup>16</sup>And without controversy great is the mystery of godliness: God was manifested in the flesh, Justified in the Spirit, seen by angels, preached among the Gentiles, believed on in the world, received up in glory.

What the text is saying is that no man or woman can fully understand who God is and how He works. All we have to do is to accept what God does and thank Him that through Christ Jesus He has made us a part of the family of God. In relation to my example on the voltage, we need to understand that God can do what He wants, and He bestows His power to who He wants, when He wants, and He is able to empower both male and female in whatever measure of His power He chooses to confer upon the individual in order that man and woman can be redeemed from their sins through God's benevolent Grace.

Acts 18:24-26 Ministry of Apollos with Aquila and Priscilla

<sup>24</sup>Now a certain Jew named Apollos, born at Alexandria, an eloquent man and mighty in the Scriptures, came to Ephesus. <sup>25</sup>This man had been instructed in the way of the Lord; and being fervent in spirit, he spoke and taught accurately the things of the Lord, though he knew only the baptism of John. <sup>26</sup>So he began to speak boldly in the synagogue: whom when Aquila and Priscilla heard him, they took him aside and explained to him the way of God more accurately”.

Acts 21:7-9 <sup>7</sup>“And when we had finished our voyage from Tyre, we came to Ptolemais, greeted the brethren, and stayed with them one day. <sup>8</sup>On the next day we who were Paul's companions departed and came to Caesarea, and entered the house of Philip the evangelist, who was one of the seven, and stayed with him. <sup>9</sup>Now this man had four virgin daughters who prophesied”.

Romans 16:1-16 Sister Phoebe Commended

<sup>16</sup>“I commend to you Phoebe our sister, who is a servant of the church in Cenchrea, <sup>2</sup><sup>that</sup> you may receive her in the Lord in a manner worthy of the saints, and assist her in whatever business she has need of you; for indeed she has been a helper of many and of myself also”.

## Greeting Roman Saints

“<sup>3</sup>Greet Priscilla and Aquila, my fellow workers in Christ Jesus,<sup>4</sup>who risked their own necks for my life, to whom not only I give thanks, but also all the churches of the Gentiles.<sup>5</sup>Likewise greet the church that is in their house. Greet my beloved Epaenetus, who is the first fruits of Achaia<sup>a</sup> to Christ.<sup>6</sup> Greet Mary, who laboured much for us.<sup>7</sup>Greet Andronicus and Junia, my countrymen and my fellow prisoners, who are of note among the apostles, who also were in Christ before me”.

## Bible Prohibitions of Women in Ministry:-

Much of the opposition to women in ministry is based on these two passages of Scriptures taken from [1 Corinthians 14: 33-35](#) and [1 Timothy 2: 11-12](#). As in all the congregations of the saints, women should remain silent in the churches. They are not allowed to speak, but must be in submission, as the Law says. If they want to inquire about something, they should ask their own husbands at home; for it is disgraceful for a woman to speak in the church. (NIV, [1Corinthians 14:33-35](#))

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. (NIV, [1 Timothy 2:11-12](#))

Related verses: [1Corinthians 11:3](#), [Ephesians 5:22-23](#).

As with much of the Bible, some background information is helpful for interpreting these passages:

- <sup>1</sup>Biblical-era society was very much male-dominated. The status of women was much like that of children today -- totally subservient to the male head-of-household. It would have been considered scandalous for a woman to take a leadership role with authority over men.
- Biblical-era women were not educated and were mostly confined to domestic duties. A woman would not have had the education needed to take a teaching role.
- The young Christian communities in the Mediterranean area were already looked upon as hotbeds of dangerous heretics by the pagan majorities. The apostle Paul and other church leaders were very concerned about avoiding any appearance of scandal that would make a bad impression on the people they wanted to convert to Christianity ([Titus 2:3-8](#), [1 Corinthians 14:22-24](#)), or worse, that could be used to justify persecution of Christians.

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<sup>1</sup> [http://www.christianbiblereference.org/faq\\_women.htm](http://www.christianbiblereference.org/faq_women.htm)

- Humility is an important theme throughout the New Testament. This virtue comes from obedience to God, not from rebelling against society's norms (1 Peter 2:13-17). Thus, slaves should accept freedom if offered, but, if not, should be obedient to their masters in all things (1 Corinthians 7:20-24, Colossians 3:22-24, 1 Peter 2:18-21). Similarly, women should not rebel against their lot in life (1 Peter 3:1-6).

### Paul's Proclamation of Equality

Although he accepted that people may have different roles in society, the Apostle Paul proclaimed that all believers are equal in God's sight:

NKJV Galatians 3:26-29 Sons and Heirs

“<sup>26</sup> For you are all sons of God through faith in Christ Jesus. <sup>27</sup> For as many of you as were baptised into Christ have put on Christ. <sup>28</sup> There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free, there is neither male nor female; for you are all one in Christ Jesus. <sup>29</sup> And if you *are* Christ's, then you are Abraham's seed and heirs according to the promise”.

### The "No" Conclusion: Women Cannot Be Ministers of the Gospel

Many people interpret the fact that Jesus appointed only male apostles, and the New Testament passages cited above as an absolute prohibition of a ministerial role for women. It is the natural order, decreed by God, that women should forever be subservient to men. Based on inaccuracy of the Bible stated by many scholars, these passages must be taken at face value, that women must forever be barred from roles in ministry.

### The "Yes" Conclusion: Women Can Be Ministers of the gospel

Many others view the New Testament prohibitions simply as practical advice to preserve the sanctity and tranquility of the church and to avoid scandal. Although the New Testament writers passively accepted slavery, few people would argue that we should return to the horrors of slavery. In the same way, although the New Testament writers passively accepted the oppression of women, it does not imply that a leadership role for a woman would be wrong in today's very different society, and culture. Some of the great leaders and prophets of Israel were women, so God could not have intended to exclude women from spiritual and political leadership. Paul's proclamation of equality and Jesus' willingness to defy

convention and accept women into His larger circle of disciples should be the guiding principles rather than the customs of the Roman Empire in the first century. Women took as large a role in the early Church leadership as was allowed by the conventions of that society, so women today should be able to serve in Church Ministries in whatever positions they are qualified to fill.

There are some attached documents which I have called **Elementary Theology the Five "W's**, and **Research notes from the New King James Version Nelson Study Bible**.

By applying Hermeneutics (the science of understanding and interpreting the bible) it denotes the principles of using the Five "W's" (elementary theology). It plays the role of interpreter (the way we bring out the words of God from the bible) of the particular text; in other words let the text speak clearly about the message, which the author of the written text wanted the reader to interpret and understand.

Let me now exegeses the two scriptures which Paul used to address the issue of women being "Silent", not to speak or teach in the church (the assembly).

Let us look at <sup>2</sup>1Timothy 2:8-12 & 1 Corinthians 14:26-40, using the Five "W's" Elementary Theology.

The Five W's consists of:-

WHO: - ?

WHAT: - ?

WHEN: - ?

WHERE: - ?

WHY: - ?

Looking at the above let me now ask the questions in relation to the Five Ws of the text 1 Tim 2:8-12.

Who: - was the author of this scriptural text?.

**The answer is Paul.**

What:-Does the scriptural text mean to us today i.e. language and culture.

**The answer is that the culture was different from today in the 21st century age. However, if women still behave in their unruly, disturbing, unlearned ways etc., what Paul said in the scriptural text is applicable in the 21st century church assemblies.**

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<sup>2</sup> [biblegateway.com](http://biblegateway.com)

NIV Bible  
NKJV BIBLE



When:-When was the writer speaking and to whom was he speaking i.e. audience.

The answer is that Paul was speaking to Jews and Gentiles and possible Greek audience.

Where:-Where was the author of the scriptural text i.e. location, country, region.

The answer is that Paul was in Palestine, City of Ephesus - the Ephesians and Corinthian church's.

Why: - Why did the author of the scriptural text speak the way he did? What was happening?

The answer is that the women in question were unruly, unlearned, very bad behaving, very disruptive, causing chaos and massive disturbance in worshipping services in the local assemblies. If Paul did not take immediate actions as he did, the church of Christ Jesus would be completely destroyed.

Looking at the above we should be able to address the matter fairly having looked at how, by using the Elementary Theology to the Five "W's". We can see clearly that the Apostle Paul scriptural text did not say women should not speak and should be silent universally. What Paul meant was if there were women like those in the Ephesians and Corinthian churches, whether it be in the AD 66 or today the 21st century, they should be silent and should not ask questions in church. They should get information for whatever they want to know from their husbands at home, until they learn to be humble, to be in subjection to their own husband, bridle their tongue, chase and keepers of a good home etc.

Again I am saying, any woman within the Church of Christ Jesus who does not come under the above notation, should be allowed to speak or teach and be involved in church ministries in the mount Zion 7th Day Church of God (UK International Conference) and other denominations.

The other attached documents; the New King James Version Research notes have been provided for further information

- Paul was dealing with the Church in Ephesus (Ephesians) and the situations which had risen in that period.
- Referring to the research commentary of the New King James Version Study Bible which indicates that the women were not behaving properly, they were: -
- Unruly;
- Uneducated on the matters of the scriptures because in the Jewish culture only the men were allowed to study the Law which is based on the First Five Books of the Old Testament or known as the Books of Moses (Pentateuch) which God had instructed Moses to write.

During that period there were also false teachers in that region who were infiltrating their heresy to the women; hence the teachings became popular with the women who would challenge the men of the Church.

The women were causing disturbance within the congregation and had become aggressive towards the principle of the teaching of God's Word.

In [1 Corinthians 14:34-39](#) was another scenario where the women's behaviour was unacceptable within the congregation. Therefore Paul addressed the issue very sharply in order for the Church to maintain the proper principle of orderly conduct in worship services. The Apostle Paul again in this instance when he used the words "... let a woman learn in silence" was ignoring the popular myths (at the time when the text was written) about women being incapable of learning and urged Timothy in [1 Timothy 2:11-12](#) to provide opportunities for women to be educated in silence. He was also referring to the women's attitude or manner while learning. Paul was not saying that a woman could not speak or teach in the local assembly [1 Corinthians 11:2-16](#). He was simply cautioning women to learn with an attitude of submission and not in a manner that is unruly.

It must be noted that there are these types of women in our local churches today in the 21st century who do not behave Godly. They interrupt the services from time to time; some of them also do not fully understand the scriptures. These are the type of women I would instruct to be silent and should not speak or teach in the assembly, today in 2016 and all of the years to come.

### Conclusion

Paul did not have a problem with women in ministry but he had a problem with the mannerism of some women who came into question and he addressed the matter in depths; in [1 Corinthians 14](#) and [1 Timothy 2](#) in order that there would be proper conduct in the House of God.

In reference to 1<sup>st</sup> Timothy 2 where women needed to keep silence, Paul was not saying women should not partake in the ministry but that they should not usurp their authority over the men.

If women in ministry are:-

- Well behaved
- Adorn themselves appropriately
- Well educated in the scriptures
- Behaves appropriately in church services
- Good keepers of their homes including their children
- Respect and honour their husbands

- Humble
- Able to bridle their tongue
- Not a bully
- Respecting authority - religious / secular leaders
- Confidential
- Filled with the Holy Ghost

Mount Zion 7<sup>th</sup> Day Church of God (UK International Conference) will ordain these women in the ministry as Evangelist Ministers, Missionary and other officers to work alongside Pastors, Bishops, Deacons and Overseers, giving them the authority to preach and teach.

If we are going to take the English language at its face value let us go for it. Silence means do not speak, do not utter a word from your mouth, neither should you say anything, educative or constructive behavior; to my thinking, all this comes under the umbrella of the words "to be silent".

What is happening then when some of these church leaders within our charismatic Pentecostal churches only allow women to sing, read the scriptures, and being vocal in Sabbath school and church discussions. This practice is nonsensical, hypocritical, barbaric and do not make sense. When you apply the English language and other languages interpretation of the word 'Silent' it means to keep your mouth closed. If this be the case then all women who attend church services should come and do not utter a word in the service; they should leave all the males to sing, shout praises, read the scripture etc.

Ladies and gentlemen, Christians, boys and girls no person with a fair sense of reasoning will accept that the biblical written text we are talking about, means that universally, women should be silent; completely close their mouths when they come in the local church assemblies services to worship the most high God. The whole matter for this confusion in our organization and churches is because of male chauvinism, disrespect, misunderstanding and misinterpretation of biblical written Scriptures by not applying Elementary Theology: The Five "Ws" and carrying out the relevant researches that is required for written Scriptures.

Note:-

There are female Pastors and Ministers who are not ordained by the leadership of Mount Zion, who are founders of their own Ministry and organisation. They are well established and winning many souls for Christ Jesus etc. As the President/Bishop of the <sup>3</sup>Mount Zion 7th Day Church of (UK International

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<sup>3</sup> Mount Zion 7<sup>th</sup> Day Church of God (UK International Conference)  
333a Sydenham Road, Croydon, Surrey, CR0 2EL, United Kingdom

Conference) I will proudly accept and work with those Pastors and Ministers. This is my personal view and I do not expect everyone to agree with them.

Finally I find the subject that women should be silent and are not permitted to speak or teach in the churches, to be very confusing and it shows a lack of knowledge.