

## SOME PASSAGES ON THE MALE-FEMALE RELATIONSHIP

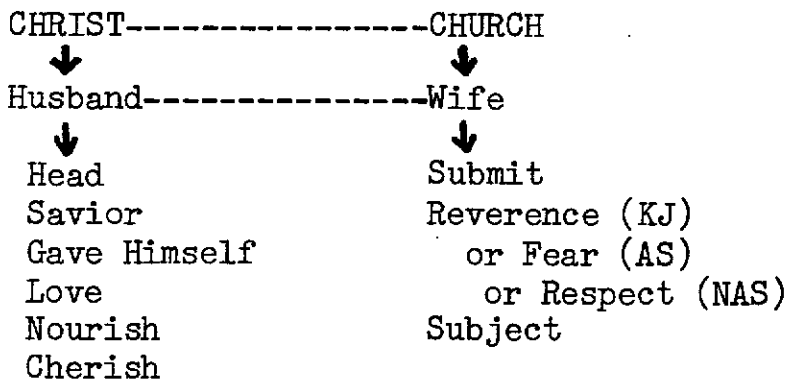
(By Ron Halbrook)

### I. Basis of Relationship in Creation and Early History

- A. God appointed the basic relationship from the creation of man and woman. This is especially seen when God gives man the duties of protecting and leading the wife in marriage. See Gen. 1:26-28; 2:18-24
- B. When Eve was first deceived and then led her husband into sin, she showed her own need for someone to lead and protect her. See Gen. 2:17; 3:6, 16-20

### II. Marriage and Home Life

- A. God's law is one man for one woman for life; only the innocent partner may set aside his immoral mate and remarry. See Matt. 5:31-32; 19:1-12
- B. The male-female relationship is taught by the role of Christ and the church. See Eph. 5:22-33



- C. Woman is not a mindless ornament, though she adds tenderness and beauty to life. She is to diligently follow "every good work" and to "guide (rule, manage, direct, keep up) the house" (i.e. household affairs which need her attention). 1 Tim. 5:9-15; Tit. 2:4-5; see also Prov. 31:10-31
- D. Godly living can help convert an unbelieving mate. While the wife is to be subject to the husband, she is not to be in terror of him. He is to give her the protection and care needed by a weaker vessel. See 1 Pet. 3:1-7

### III. Problems of Women Challenging the Man's Place

- A. At Corinth in the first century, only wicked women of a shameless and brazen spirit went about without veils. To go unveiled was to rebel against principles of modesty, morality, and submission in the male-female relationship. Some of the Christian women who could "pray or prophesy" thought that since they were spiritually equal to their husbands and had the same gifts, the woman could "pray or prophesy" unveiled as the man. Such could not be tolerated because it destroyed proper male-female relationships.

Our relationship to Christ does not eliminate human relationships and duties, but helps us to see them in their true light and to improve them. The wife is still subject to her husband's leadership, guidance, and protection.  
See 1 Cor. 11:2-16

NOTE: The above principle (underlined) is agreed upon by all brethren who earnestly and fervently follow the Bible as our authority in religion. Brethren who agree about the male-female relationship have honest differences in how and when to apply the covering or veil of 1 Cor. 11. In trying to respect the male-female relationship of the Bible, (1) some brethren believe a form of headdress should be worn by all women everywhere during public worship (some believe also during private worship), and (2) other brethren believe the need of any headdress and the form of it differ from one culture to another.

The difference centers on the role of custom in the specific statements about the covering or veil. All agree there are principles mentioned which do not change with custom, just as the principle of marriage continues but the ceremony which signifies marriage differs from one place or age to another. Some honestly believe the specific statements about the covering are divine revelations and cannot change. Others honestly believe the veil existed long before 1 Cor. 11 and is regulated rather than revealed (like slavery, greet by kiss, foot wash, and articles of clothing--see chart "Things Not Revealed, But Regulated"). If we lived in a culture where unveiled women meant the overthrow of modesty, morality, and purity, we would agree on how to apply the passage. We should try to respect and to edify one another while studying the passage, and not lose sight of the principles on which we agree.

B. Women in the New Testament age were tempted to take man's place of leadership in the church.



1 Tim. 2:8-13 shows the position of men as leaders in the male-female relationship in all the affairs of the church. Passages which include the woman's duty and privilege as a teacher do not put her in a position of exercising authority over the men (Matt. 28:18-20--all who are taught should in turn teach others as the opportunity arises; Acts 8:3-4; 21:9; Tit. 2:2-6).

1 Cor. 14:34-35 dealt with women who were wives of the prophets and who interrupted the assembly so as to undermine the proper male-female relationship. The husband's leadership and the wife's subjection to him should never be violated by her disrupting the public services. The prophet's wives who interrupted and disrupted their husband's leadership on the excuse of learning something, could rather "ask their husbands at home."

NOTE: 1 Cor. 14:34-35 reflects the principle of 1 Tim. 2:8-13, i.e. the principle of man's leadership in the church wherever the male-female relationship is involved. But we must keep in mind that 1 Cor. 14 makes a special application of that principle under the particular circumstances given in the passage:

1. Inspired men were addressing "the whole church...come together into one place" (v. 23)--i.e. male and female were all assembled together.
2. The inspired utterances of these men reflected their authority as leaders of the assembly.
3. The specific interruptions mentioned were by certain women whose husbands could supply (at home) all the information their wives sought in a disruptive way in the church. The men mentioned in this context who fit that category are those inspired men who addressed the assembly. Women at Corinth who did not cause a problem and whose husbands did not fall into the above category include:
  - a. Christian women whose husbands were believers without gifts of inspired speech (12:29).
  - b. Christian women whose husbands were unbelievers (7:16).
  - c. Virgins (7:36).
  - d. Widows (7:39).
  - e. Unbelieving women in services at times (7:16; 14:23).
4. The speaking of these women, like every other abuse in 1 Cor. 14, hindered the edification which requires decency and order (vv. 26, 40).

Women "not permitted...to speak" is misused when used to prohibit: (1) women teaching women or little children; (2) women reading a verse, asking a question, or making a comment in a mixed Bible class.

THINGS NOT REVEALED, BUT REGULATED			
<u>Existed Here</u>	-----THUS-----	<u>Not Revealed Here, But Only Regulated</u>	<u>Principle Existed Before Custom &amp; Not Change</u>
			
SLAVERY Ex. 21:1-11, 26-27		1 Cor. 7:20-23; Eph. 6:5-9; Philemon	Justice; Fair Treatment
GREET BY KISS Gen. 29:13; 2 Sam. 20:9; Matt. 26:48; Lk. 7:45; Acts 20:37		Rom. 16:16; 1 Cor. 16:20; 2 Cor. 13:12; 1 Thess. 5:26; 1 Pet. 5:14	Holiness; Sincere Love
FOOT WASHING Gen. 18:4; 19:2; 24:32; 43:24; Ex. 30:19, 21; 40:31; Judg. 19:21; 1 Sam. 25:41; 2 Sam. 11:18; Ps. 58:10; Song of Sol. 5:3; Lk. 7:36-44		Jn. 13:1-13; 1 Tim. 5:10	Humble Service
VEIL OR COVERING Gen. 24:65; 38:14-15, 19; Ruth 3:15; Song of Sol. 5:7; (4:1, 3; 6:7 ASV); Isa. 3:23		1 Cor. 11:2-16	Woman Subject to Man; Example of Moral Purity
CLOTHES (Mantle, Robe, Etc.) 1 Kgs. 19:13, 19; 2 Sam. 13:18; Ruth 3:9; Isa. 3:18-24; Heb. 11:37		1 Tim. 2:9-10; 1 Pet. 3:1-5	Modesty

# What Is Covered In Limit Of Woman's Role??

Confess Christ

Confess Sin

Mixed Class:  
Read Vs. Question Comment

Answer Request

1 TIM. 2: 8-15

1 COR. 14: 34-35

Interrupt

Men Who Lead

Teach

Mixed Class

Equal Voice

In Public

Decision Making

Teach Man Privately

Teach

Woman's

Class

Teach Children's Class

Sing

Elder

Lead Men:

Preach

Pray

Sing

L.S.

Collection

# WOMAN'S PLACE IN GOD'S PLAN

## I. IN THE BEGINNING: BASIS OF MALE-FEMALE ROLES

A. Gen. 1:26-28; 2:18-24 Creation

B. Gen. 2:17; 3:6, 16-20 Eve Deceived

## II. MARRIAGE & HOME LIFE

A. Matt. 5:31-32; 19:1-12 One Man For One Woman

B. Eph. 5:22-33 Husband Loves & Leads, Wife Submits & Cooperates

C. 1 Tim. 5:9-15; Tit. 2:4-5; Prov. 31:10-31  
"Every Good Work," "Guide The House"

D. 1 Pet. 3:1-7 Woman's Good Influence, Man's Care For Her

### III. WOMAN NOT TO CHALLENGE MAN'S PLACE

#### A. 1 Cor. 11: 2-16 Man Still Head In Christ

1. Woman (Prophetess) Cast Off  
VEIL = Symbol = Modest,  
Moral, Submit
2. VEIL = Local, Not Universal  
Vs. 16 ; Heads Bare In Worship  
& Other Public Places { 1 Tim. 2:9  
1 Pet. 3:3
3. Veil Not Revealed, But  
Regulated = Slavery, Greet  
By Kiss, Foot Wash,  
Clothing Style

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Existed Here-----THUS-----Not Revealed Here, But Only Regulated →

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Principle Existed Before Custom & Not Change

<p>SLAVERY Ex. 21:1-11, 26-27</p>	<p>1 Cor. 7:20-23; Eph. 6:5-9; Philemon</p>	<p>Justice; Fair Treatment</p>
<p>GREET BY KISS Gen. 29:13; 2 Sam. 20:9; Matt. 26:48; Lk. 7:45; Acts 20:37</p>	<p>Rom. 16:16; 1 Cor. 16:20; 2 Cor. 13:12; 1 Thess. 5:26; 1 Pet. 5:14</p>	<p>Holiness; Sincere Love</p>
<p>FOOT WASHING Gen. 18:4; 19:2; 24:32; 43:24; Ex. 30:19, 21; 40:31; Judg. 19:21; 1 Sam. 25:41; 2 Sam. 11:18; Ps. 58:10; Song of Sol. 5:3; Lk. 7:36-44</p>	<p>Jn. 13:1-13; 1 Tim. 5:10</p>	<p>Humble Service</p>



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VEIL OR. Gen. 24:65; 38:14-15, 19;  
COVERING Ruth 3:15; Song of Sol. 5:7;  
(4:1, 3; 6:7 ASV); Isa. 3:23

1 Cor. 11:2-16

Woman Subject to Man; Example of Moral Purity

CLOTHES 1 Kgs. 19:13, 19; 2 Sam. (Mantle, 13:18; Ruth 3:9; Robe, Isa. 3:18-24; Heb. 11:37 Etc.)

1 Tim. 2:9-10;  
1 Pet. 3:1-5

Modesty

## PG.3 WOMAN'S PLACE

### B. Woman Not To Lead Man In Work Of Church

1. 1 Tim. 2: 8-15 Man Lead Woman  
In Affairs Of Church =  
Forbid Woman Authority **OVER**  
**MAN**, Not All Teaching Or Speech
2. 1 Cor. 14: 34-35 Prophets' Wives  
Not To Interrupt Order &  
Edification Of Assembly  
To Question Husbands

# 1 COR. 14:34-35 WHICH WOMEN ?

## THIS:

In Mixed Assembly  
(vs. 23)

Married (vs. 35)

Married - Believer  
(vs. 35)

Husband = PROPHET =  
Can Ans. All

Questions (vs. 36)

(If Not, She Could  
Say, "But He Can't  
Ans. My Question!")

## NOT THIS:

Husband Not A  
Prophet (12:29)

Husband Unbel.  
(7:16)

Virgin (7:36)

Widow (7:39)

Unbel. Woman  
(7:16; 14:23)

Deserted  
Woman (7:15)

## THEREFORE:

WIVES OF PROPHETS!

# What Is Covered In Limit Of Woman's Role??

1 TIM. 2: 8-15  
 1 COR. 14: 34-35

Teach Man Privately

Teach

Woman's Class

Teach Children's Class

Sing

Elder

Lead Men:

Preach

Pray

Sing

L.S.

Collection

Interrupt

Men Who Lead

Teach

Mixed Class

Equal Voice

In Public

Decision Making

Confess Christ

Confess Sin

Mixed Class:  
 Read Vs.

Question  
 Comment

Answer  
 Request