

Sermon Notes -- Themes from Ephesians

“Male Authority in the Church and Related Questions” – Part D Ephesians 5:22-33

I. Introduction.

A. Women’s function in the church.

1. Giftedness but still subordinate.

B. The Word of God in general.

1. The Bible is all about authority and submission to it.
2. R. C. Sproul.

II. Objections answered.

A. Ephesians 5:21

1. Understood to teach mutual submission between a husband and wife because this verse introduces Paul’s remarks about males and females in marriage.
2. Refuted in the following:
 - a. The latter portion of Ephesians 5 and beginning points of Ephesians 6 all deal with submission to authority.
 - b. Beware of distorting the relationship of Christ to the church as noted by Paul.
 1. When does Christ submit to the church?

B. Galatians 3:28

1. Female subordination is abolished in the New Covenant.
2. Refuted in the following:
 - a. If Paul is abolishing female subordination, then he is contradicting instructions given elsewhere: I Cor. 11:3-16; 14:33-35; Eph. 5:22-24; Col. 3:18; Titus 2:5.
 - b. Paul is merely saying that females have the same access to Christ as men do.
 - c. Paul is simply noting that the walls of separation in classes

have been broken down in the New Covenant.

- d. Females now receive the sign of the covenant in their flesh – Baptism
- e. Being a better slave meant greater submission: I Cor. 7:20; Eph. 6:5-9; Col. 3:22, Philemon.

C. Holy women of note argument

1. Gifted women of the Old and New Testament

Miriam – Exodus 15:20

Huldah – II Kings 22:14-20

Anna – Luke 2:36-38

Deborah – Judges 4:4

Esther – Book of Esther – Deliverer of Israel.

Female followers of Christ include Mary Magdalene who testifies to the resurrection – John 20:11-18

Women who assisted Paul, especially Phoebe, Romans 16:1-15, Priscilla who taught Apollos and had a church meet in her home, Acts 18:26, I Cor. 16:19.

2. Refuted in the following:

- a. Women have equal access to God with Christ as their intercessor. Yet, this New Testament equality does not change God’s directions for them to not have ruling power in the church.
- b. Background on Esther.
- c. Background on Deborah.

D. Wesleyan quadrilateral.

1. S _____
2. T _____
3. R _____
4. E _____

Note the Westminster Confession of Faith, Chapter 1, Section 10 and the Larger Catechism, Question 3.