

The Roles of Men and Women In, and Beyond, the Church

Divine Authority Structure

- Religious context
 - In assemblies
 - Outside of assemblies
- Family context
 - Children
 - One-ness in marriage (submission and headship)
- Broad social context
 - Marketplace
 - Employment
- Odd cases are not the rule

Divine Authority Structure in Religious Context

- In general, an understanding of men and women in Christ

- Galatians 3:27-28

For as many of you as were baptized into Christ did put on Christ. There can be neither Jew nor Greek, there can be neither bond nor free, there can be no male and female; for ye all are one *man* in Christ Jesus. (ASV)

Divine Authority Structure in Religious Context

- In general, an understanding of “head” and “submit”

- I Corinthians 11:3

But I would have you know, that the head of every **man** is **Christ**; and the head of the **woman** is the **man**; and the head of **Christ** is **God**. (ASV)

- Hebrews 13:17

Obey them that have the **rule over you** [eldership SDC], and **submit** *to them*: for they watch in behalf of your souls, as they that shall give account; that they may do this with joy, and not with grief: for this *were* unprofitable for you. (ASV)

Divine Authority Structure in Religious Context

- In general, an understanding of “head” and “submit”
 - I Corinthians 16:15-16

I beseech you, brethren, (ye know the house of Stephanas, that it is the firstfruits of Achaia, and *that* they have **addicted themselves to the ministry** of the saints,) That ye submit yourselves unto such, and to every one that helpeth with *us*, and laboureth. (ASV)
 - I Peter 5:5

Likewise, ye younger, submit yourselves unto the **elder** [older SDC]. Yea, all *of you* be subject **one to another**, and be clothed with humility: for God resisteth the proud, and giveth grace to the humble. (ASV)

Divine Authority Structure in Religious Context

- In assemblies

- I Corinthians 14:34-35

...let the women keep **silence in the churches**: for it is not permitted unto them to speak; but let them be in subjection, as also saith the law. And if they would learn anything, let them **ask their own husbands at home**: for it is **shameful** for a woman to speak in the church. (ASV)

- I Timothy 2:11-12

Let a woman learn in **quietness** with all **subjection**. But I permit not a woman to **teach, nor to have dominion over a man**, but to be in quietness. (ASV)

“Silence” and “quietness”

- Silence **G2271** ἡσυχία hēsuchia
 - Feminine of G2272; (as noun) *stillness*, that is, desistance from bustle or language: - quietness, silence.
 - Other occurrences
 - Acts 22:2
 - II Thessalonians 3:12 (trd. “quietness”)
 - I Timothy 2:11,12
 - Thayer Definition:
 - 1) quietness
 - 1a) description of the life of one who stays at home doing his own work, and does not officiously meddle with the affairs of others
 - 2) silence
- Silence **G4601** σιγάω sigaō
 - From G4602; to *keep silent* (transitive or intransitive): - keep close (secret, silence), hold peace.
 - Other occurrences
 - Luke 9:36 “kept close”
 - Luke 20:26; Acts 15:13; I Corinthians 14:30 “held their peace”
 - Acts 15:12; I Corinthians 14:28, 34 “kept silence”
 - Romans 16:25 “kept secret”
 - Thayer Definition:
 - 1) to keep silence, hold one’s peace
 - 2) to be kept in silence, be concealed

Divine Authority Structure in Religious Context

- Outside of assemblies

- Titus 2:3-5

- ...that aged women likewise be reverent in demeanor, not slanderers nor enslaved to much wine, teachers of that which is good; that they may train the young women to love their husbands, to love their children, *to be* sober-minded, chaste, workers at home, kind, being in subjection to their own husbands, that the word of God be not blasphemed... (ASV)

- Acts 18:26

- ...and he [Apollos] began to speak boldly in the synagogue. But when Priscilla and Aquila heard him, **they** took him unto them, and expounded unto him the way of God more accurately. (ASV)

Divine Authority Structure in Religious Context

- A case in point

- Acts 2:17

And it shall be in the last days, saith God, I will pour forth of my Spirit upon all flesh: And your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, And your young men shall see visions, And your old men shall dream dreams: (ASV)

- Acts 21:9

Now this man [Philip] had four virgin daughters, who prophesied. (ASV)

- I Corinthians 11:5

But every woman praying or prophesying with her head unveiled dishonoreth her head; for it is one and the same thing as if she were shaven. (ASV)

- Paul used his gifts **both in the assembly and beyond,** so might these women, I Corinthians 14:18-19