



Article Title— **“Are Women Ever Called to Be Pastors?”**

Article Category— **Rightly Dividing the Word of Truth**



Note: Link1... Bible Research Team is a wholly-owned subsidiary of Bible Explorers Club, LLC.

www.Link1.info

Copyright © 2018 Bible Explorers Club, LLC — All Rights Reserved.

page 1

Yesterday, there was a worthy and beautiful exchange between two of my friends who're also surely among Our Heavenly Father's favorites. Prompting the dialog was a friend who serves as a missionary somewhere on her native Continent of Africa. Her initial question – along with those that followed – were clearly born of Christ-like humility and a God-given need to know. The essence of it was this: "Am I committing an offense by serving as an evangelist and unofficial 'pastor' to the rural folk who are believing the Gospel message and repenting of their sinful lifestyles? Is it wrong of me to work at helping them make that critical transition from the passivity of Believing to the productivity of Discipleship? (Someone had apparently told her that her role was a scripturally grave injustice...because she's a woman.) My respect for her and for our mutual friend who offered the initial response is immeasurable.

Our mutual friend who responded first wrote this: "When a God-fearing man answers that question publicly, it always gets him in trouble. It follows that smart men (or cowardly ones) leave it be. But, yours truly has never been accused of having any common sense so I will venture an answer...

"So, what exactly does this [i.e.: the indictment against your ministry] mean, practically? What are women restricted from doing? The clear implication is that women are not to serve in any role which involves the authoritative spiritual teaching of men. By this definition, the role of teaching/pastor/shepherd is reserved for men. This is confirmed in the two passages which deal specifically with the qualifications for church leadership (1 Timothy 3:1-13 and Titus 1:6-9). Church leaders are described as the [respective] 'husbands of one wife,' 'men whose children believe,' and 'men worthy of respect.'

"Rather than focusing on what ministries women are restricted from, the focus should be on the multitude of ways God calls and gifts women to serve. Women are nowhere restricted from proclaiming the gospel to the lost (Acts 1:8 and 1 Peter 3:15). Women are encouraged to teach other women (Titus 2:3-5). Women are nowhere restricted from teaching children. Women seem to excel far beyond men in some of the spiritual gifts and fruit of the Spirit (1 Corinthians 12 and Galatians 5:22-23). Women being restricted from spiritual teaching authority over men is not a punishment. Rather, it is a refocusing to the ministries, skills and gifts with which God blesses women.

"There are many other passages that deal with the relationship between both women and men and women and God. Many of them can be found here: https://www.openbible.info/topics/female_pastors.

"And so, my friend, it matters not what I think or say, it matters only what He says. One thing I am sure of and that is that God surely has different roles for men and women in mind. Also, He does not consider women to be inferior but, rather, they have different roles than men. Of course, there are a bunch of folks in this [Facebook] group a whole lot smarter than me, so I await their views as well. Before answering a question like this one (a controversial one, at that), one should always ask himself two 'gateway' questions:

- ❶ Does God always mean what He says?
- ❷ Are his words and instructions timeless?

Three things from that initial response are remarkable stand-outs for me...

- "Rather than focusing on what ministries women are restricted from, the focus should be on the multitude of ways God calls and gifts women to serve."
- "Women seem to excel far beyond men in some of the spiritual gifts and fruit of the Spirit (1 Corinthians 12 and Galatians 5:22-23)."
- "Women being restricted from spiritual teaching authority over men is not a punishment. Rather, it is a refocusing to the ministries, skills and gifts with which God blesses women."

Then, as I was contemplating some scriptures that might be helpful to them both, I clicked on that Open Bible hotlink, above, to find all the pertinent scriptures of which I was aware and more! Valuable resource.

I am choosing to omit some of that missionary friend's subsequent questions to protect her privacy, but perhaps I should offer this excerpt from my responses: "From some of your subsequent comments, my compassionate missionary friend, I get the

I was a successful Bible teacher for a LOT of years—big sanctuary classes.
I knew what my denomination believed and that's what I taught.
Yes, I should've checked it out to make sure it was true.

So why didn't I do that? Well, maybe I didn't do that for the same reason that you haven't really checked out what your denomination teaches.

"In religion and politics, people's beliefs and convictions are in almost every case gotten at second hand, and without examination." —Samuel Clemens




impression that you may think your unmarried status might be a punishment for having 'offended.' I don't think that, at all! Among my rationale for that is what Paul wrote at 1 Corinthians, chapter 7. A re-read of those words may be a source of encouragement to you. Hope so."

And I then offered rationale for the core of my response. It went something like this...

- In both politics and religion (and within traditional families) those who're typically most effective in getting things DONE are those who remain behind the scenes while "pulling the strings" of others who "dance" for their target audiences. The puppet-masters are fully content with the idea of allowing the "dancers" to get ALL the credit. Their satisfaction comes from their ability to get things DONE. Their self-confidence escalates in proportion to their getting things done over and over and over again. (Yes, they also enjoy the "in-private" admiration and praises of their DANCERS.)
- In my personal experience, it has been really easy to observe that men who enter the career-professional "ministry" are often both motivated and sustained by the overt praises and adoration of their followers. One indication of that is the propensity of many clerics to clothe themselves with pompous attire, high-minded [pious] behavior and elitist vocabularies. A quick-read of Jesus' words at Matthew 23:5-12 will confirm that. (I'll concede that, for the vast majority of preachers, that mindset is subliminal...but nonetheless observable.)
- Over the years, I've heard many folk express something like, "I really wish God would go ahead and tell me what He wants me to DO with my life!" I think that genuine frustration comes directly from some of their terribly misguided pulpits. To offer a definitive response to as many of those frustrated folk as possible, I published an article to which the following HOTLINK will take you. The very first paragraph of that one-page article may become significant to you: https://docs.wixstatic.com/ugd/a359a3_44a8cc5b9f9b4935821779f0806411ac.pdf.

Continuing..."I do hope you'll find comfort and encouragement in all this, my friend. The bottom line may be this: When you're doing what must be done and there's nobody else who's willing (or equipped) to do it, you are fulfilling God's very clear and direct purpose for YOU. Godspeed!"


A school teacher friend in New England offered this response, "There certainly are places where men have abdicated and Deborahs have arisen to fill the gap. This is not God's perfect will, but He will use a Deborah where there is a male leadership vacuum." She continued, "God didn't blame Deborah for Barrack's cowardice and indecision; He used her in spite of it." She was referring to chapters 4 and 5 of the book of Judges. I think you'll find that story uncommonly fascinating. Why not grab your Bible and read it now?

—T. C. Newsome 

PS: Comments? Questions? Scriptural rebuttals? They're all welcome! www.Link1.info/contact-us.

To participate in sensible Bible-related discussions, join us at TC's Friends Club. Here's the hot link: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/136708110091989/>

I was a successful Bible teacher for a LOT of years—big sanctuary classes.
I knew what my denomination believed and that's what I taught.
Yes, I should've checked it out to make sure it was true.

So why didn't I do that? Well, maybe I didn't do that for the same reason that you haven't really checked out what your denomination teaches. 

"In religion and politics, people's beliefs and convictions are in almost every case gotten at second hand, and without examination." —Samuel Clemens

