

The Role of Women in the Congregation; Does Jesus now Reign?  
A Response to a Discussion between Pastor Dan Garber & Ryan Williams on Facebook (135 comments)  
By Preacher "D" (Chuck Doughty)

*"Dan Garber (Facebook, December 3, 2009) When it comes to women in ministry... on Resurrection [sic] Sunday... The women were the last ones at the cross, 1st ones at the tomb... While the boys were sleeping they were looking for Jesus!! (Joyce Meyer)"*

It is a hermeneutical atrocity to use scripture to affirm something that another scripture denies. I started Bible college ministries in Ohio, and now in Virginia (with several branches) to try to save the Christian ministry from such incompetence but it seems like the battle is not going to be won. The reason for this is that ministers are led by their emotions, and by their heart, by public sentiment, and pressure from the pew. There is also social pressure from the political and secular world rather than Biblical reason. Such is the case with the above quotation and its intended purpose of undermining what the Bible teaches about the role of women in the congregation.

1 Corinthians 11:3 says that the head of the man is Christ and the head of the woman is the man. And 1 Timothy 2:12 says that a woman should not exercise authority over a man. Why don't we just leave it at that? One scripture cannot contradict what another scripture affirms. But the author's statement and pastor's endorsement of the aforementioned quote is an example of how people try to twist the scriptures (2 Peter 3:16) in their statement to the effect that, "The women being the last at the cross, and the first at the tomb" is evidence to justify women in church leadership.

The woman is the keeper of the home, Titus 2:5... Does this mean that women are to be the keepers of the congregation? Women are to be submissive to their husbands at home, 1 Peter 3:1, so should they be rulers of men in the congregation? Women are to reverence their husbands, Ephesians 5:33; therefore they are to usurp their authority over man? Women were the "last ones at the cross... 1st ones at the tomb," therefore all of the scriptural teaching concerning the spiritual leadership of the congregation should fall upon the women and the men should take a back seat? It is a hermeneutical atrocity, because you divide the word against itself, and Jesus said the word cannot be broken (or divided) John 10:35.

Women love Jesus because He liberated them from Judaistic and Islam-type tyranny. There is a difference between Agape love and vying for power and honor in the congregation. Women were to be silent in the church in regard to speaking in tongues, 1 Corinthians 14:34. At what point, then, were they authorized to become verbal in the preaching of the gospel of Christ in the congregation?

Far from being the humble Godly woman, whose characteristics are spelled out in the Proverbs, women are not content to have a quiet and meek spirit as a daughter of Sarah, (1 Peter 3:4-6). They think that because Clinton and Pelosi are running for the presidency of the United States, they also can run for the bishopric of the Kingdom of God. Don't flatter yourselves, girls, in trying to take positions that God has exclusively reserved for men, such as preachers and elders. It all boils down to spiritual submission.

In the world, a woman CAN have authority if she wants to be a Margaret Thatcher, or a Phyllis Schlafly, or a Michelle Malkin... She can also be a missionary, a soul winner, going out into the world. A woman is allowed to have authority over the world and over the lost, because she is under the authority of Christ. But when she comes into the home, she is under the authority of her husband. And when she comes into the congregation, she is under the authority of Christ and His evangelist and elders, Ephesians 4:11-12.

We are bringing the world's standards of Humanism, feminism, rejection of authority, and spiritual rebellion into the congregation. If a woman is not content to be submissive to the elders and to the man in the pulpit; she is violating the spiritual authority of Jesus Christ. She is like her mother Eve, who fell into transgression, and that same Timothy book makes this comparison, 1 Timothy 4:11-14. In fact, a woman who rebels in the Lord's congregation is in a worse predicament than Eve, because she defies the spiritual authority of Christ as well as her husband, bringing reproach upon His body, the church, Colossians 1:16-18.

There are many Godly and blessed women today who are under the spiritual authority of Christ and their husbands. Why would a woman not be satisfied with that? The "authority" of which we speak is the real manifestation of a woman's heart, according to 1 Peter 3:4. It is her inner person... It is the work of a woman whose spirit is led by the Holy Spirit. It is revealed as a "hidden person" or a "meek and quiet" spirit, such as was possessed by Sarah whom God blessed because of her submission to Abraham, even though Abraham made some mistakes. A woman's obedience to Christ's authority manifests itself in a quiet subjection.

The truth is that women have always loved Jesus Christ. They were at the cross, and at the tomb, and they prayed with the 120. But on the day of Pentecost when the Lord's church was established, the women of Jesus' earthly ministry humbly restrained themselves and submitted to Christ and recognized the authority of "Peter and the eleven..." the "men of Galilee..." who were Christ's holy apostles. These apostles were the executors of Christ's last will and testament and foundation of His church, Ephesians 2:20. The author of this quote is guilty of disrespecting the holy apostles of the Lord by calling them

"boys." Whatever their shortcomings, they were rectified on the day of Pentecost. And by the way, how more could someone disrespect an apostle, than to claim the power of an apostle? (Acts 8:19-21). The early church dared not associate with them, but magnified them, Acts 5:13.

There are plenty of opportunities for women to work and serve in the church Kingdom of God. And they can and they do... But to use this as a pretext to exercise authority in the congregation, and over the man is a hermeneutical atrocity.

But often, a woman is not satisfied with the role that God has given her spiritually. Again, this is exactly what happened with Eve, and Timothy mentioned that. And the men ARE dropping out, as a result, because men and women are refusing to take the roles that God designated them to take... IN THE CHURCH, and IN THE HOME.

A woman is to be an overseer of her children, the most precious, devotion-filled, and rewarding subjects a mini-kingdom could ever possess. She is called of God to be a "steward" over them, guide them, and teach them. And there are some who faithfully perform this responsibility and receive the reward of being a Proverbs 31 woman. And yet, many women are not content with their God given role, and they are deceived, like Eve, with the temptation that they are missing out on something. "Yea, hath God said..." And so a woman drops out of that role... she is swelled with pride and wants something more glamorous... and because she wants the glory, she is governed by the spirit of feminism which is the spirit of the Devil and NOT the Holy Spirit of God. It is all part & parcel of a "liberated society."

According to Timothy and Titus, a woman can be a teacher, a minister to other women. But she must be in subjection to her husband... and if she becomes a widow, she can still teach, and she can work for the Lord on the church's payroll, if she is in subjection to Christ and is content to work according to the Biblical job description.

But, if she covets in her heart to take the job that is designated to the man alone, and she wants it... and she takes it... and in so doing, she oversteps her boundaries. And I could care less if some denomination wants to go along with that and encourage that sin... And there are many denominations ordaining women... ordaining homosexuals... and breaking down God's plan all the time. We have no control over that. We have no control over rebellious women... The only thing that can curtail that demonic, humanistic, prideful, feministic, forbidden spirit, (which afflicted Eve and many others) is the Holy Spirit, who works on her to produce a quiet and gentle spirit.

That which curtails these feminist demons is the "inner man." The inner man is the Holy Spirit working through our spirit, (Ephesians 3:16, 2 Corinthians 4:16, Romans 7:22, John 7:38).

If a woman is not allowing the Holy Spirit to work in her life, then she will look to other role models as examples for her authority... She will look to Gloria Steinem, Betty Friedan, Hillary Clinton, or Oprah Winfrey... These women are going to become her role models. But these kinds of role models will not produce in women the imperishable beauty that comes through the beautification of her "inner person" by the Holy Spirit.

If a woman wants to be in a position to meet Jesus, she has to confront Him and be able to say, "I've done everything You've told me to do." If you want to have Jesus as your Savior, risen from the grave, you have to receive Jesus' instructions on what a woman is to be. That is why this aforementioned denominational quotation is a hermeneutical atrocity. It is a scriptural atrocity to say that "women saw Jesus first and told the world that He was risen from the grave" and then conclude that a woman could be a bishop or preacher in the church. This is total scriptural nonsense.

May God bless you greatly, especially you Titus women out there who are still living by faith in Christ Jesus, and trusting in His word. We have stronger congregations because you bless God and His Word and His truth, and you love and support your husbands and your church leader men, and in so doing, you are laying up treasure in heaven. You will receive the reward from Christ because you covet His praises more than the prestige of this world.

The most important subject today is not the role of women in the congregation, but "Is Jesus reigning now as the King over His kingdom?" I would be glad to have a Biblical discussion with Pastor Dan Garber on this subject, because most people who are waiting for a "rapture" do not believe that Christ is now reigning on His throne. And this is a far greater threat to God's people at the present than the feminist movement.

Heartbroken because of Calvary,  
Jubilant because of the Ascension,  
Preacher "D"