The Role of Women
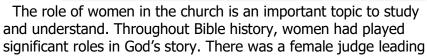
Please explain female prophets in the early church and women remaining silent in worship.

The role of women in the church is an important topic to study and understand. Throughout Bible history, women had played significant roles in God's story. There was a female judge leading the nation of Israel. Two books of the Bible are named after women. It was women who financed Jesus' ministry and it was women who were the first to the empty tomb and the first person the resurrected Jesus spoke to was a woman.

Prophetesses

- Acts 2:17-20 the Spirit of God was poured out upon _____ and _____ who prophesied
- Lk 2:36 _____ was a prophetess
- Acts 21:8-9 Philip's four _____

> We don't know the setting in which these women prophesied

> How is prophesying different from preaching?

A. Silence in the church (1 Cor 14:29-35)

The context is instructions about spiritual gifts (which prophesy was one– 12:10)

> What do we know about spiritual gifts?

- What does it mean that the "spirits of the prophets" are subject to the prophets (1 Cor 14:32)
- women are not permitted to speak (34)/it is improper (disgraceful) for a woman to speak in church (35)

> Some contend that women being silent was a cultural practice in those days and not intended for all time

1. The word "silent" means not to _____

2. In the larger context, Paul was reminding the church of God's divine order (1 Cor 14:33, 40)

> Often the expression, women are to be silent in church, is used to emphasize that a woman cannot preach. But this is not a good passage to use to prove that. Why?

> It has been said by some that a woman is not supposed to teach a man. An unqualified statement like that would lead to what conclusion (Col 3:16)?

3. Acts 18:25-26 They _____ taught
4. 1 Tim 2:11-12 the key expression is "_____"

B. Because of thoughts like this, some women feel as if they are second class in the kingdom

How does one feel value, purpose and need in the kingdom without leading worship?

Significant Women in the N.T.

Dorcas (Acts 9:36-39): abounded with deeds of _____
Phoebe (Rom 16:1): _____ of the church
Priscilla (Rom 16:3-5): fellow _____

It is fascinating that the female name (Priscilla) is listed first

- Mt 10:37; 15:4; 19:5; Eph 6:2 Father and mother