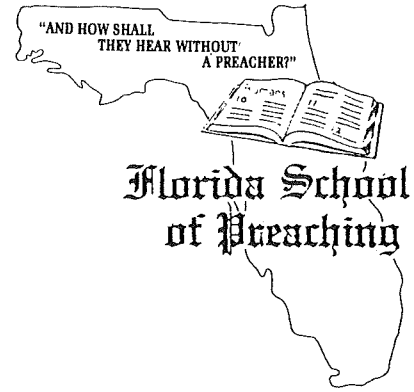


THE HARVESTERS



VOLUME XII

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NUMBER 10

THE ROLE OF WOMEN IN THE CHURCH

By
John Brackin

The role of women in the church is causing great confusion today. The facts that I will cover are not mine but are from the Bible.

The Challenge

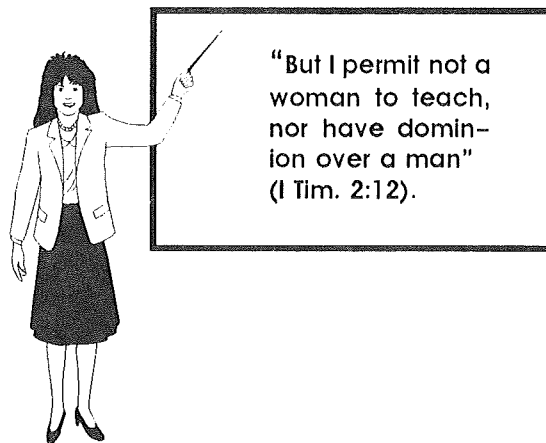
Articles about the women's liberation movement have been standard fare for many newspapers and magazines in the past year. One that I read and I quote: "Too long women have been forced to take a back seat to men in the work force. They should have the right to go out in the world and make the living." If this be the case, should the man stay home and become the "house husband?" Should every man, woman, boy, and girl be allowed to do that which is right in his or her own eyes?

God forbids this to

happen. We will become as the people of old who told Samuel that they wanted a king like the one around them. People of today say that we are living in a time that does not agree with the teaching of the Bible. We do not take this to be God's way for mankind to live. A few years ago the use of women in public preaching was condemned among most

churches. That has changed now, and denominational churches are allowing women to take the pulpit. Female preachers are knocking at the doors in the church.

I do not want any good sister to think that I have an axe to grind with them. I only want the church to stay true to the teaching of the Bible and the word of God. There is a liberal element in the Lord's Church today that sees no harm in women teaching over men in Bible study or from the pulpit. No doubt some of them could do a better job than is being done. The same attitude is promoting women leading in public prayer, serve at the Lord's table, and lead singing.



The Bible Speaks

With all that I have

said it is time to see what the scriptures have to say about the subject at hand. In Ephesians 5:22 "Wives, submit yourselves unto your own husbands, as unto the Lord." I do not take this to be that the wife is the slave to the husband. Let us look at some more scripture on this matter. "For the husband is the head of the wife, even as Christ is the head of the church; and he is the savior of the body. Therefore as the church is subject unto Christ, so let the wives be to their own husbands" (Eph.5:23-24). Paul said, that the husband is the head of the wife. Paul is an inspired apostle for the Lord. He made a comparison with Christ as head of the church to the man as head of the wife. These passages declare that the husband is to be the head of the family and the wife is to be in submission. Furthermore the passages declare that her submission is to be a submission that is similar to the submission that she yields to the Lord Ephesians 5:22.

Now let us look at First Timothy 3 concerning men becoming elders. The apostle Paul set down rules that apply to men that are to be elders. The man must be able to rule his house and care for his family. If he cannot handle these minor responsibilities of one family, then he should not

over a group of families. Similarly, if God won't allow the women to manage the minor responsibilities of being the head of one family. It is rather ridiculous to assert that God would give her the larger responsibilities of managing many families in the Church. In the Church and in the home the woman is to be in submission to her husband.

There are those that say that Ephesians 5 does not speak of the unmarried woman, that it only applies to the married. This view may appear to be plausible and reasonable and there are many that would hold this view. But while it seems plausible and reasonable it is unscriptural. Turn with me to First Cor.11:3, Paul says: "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." The verse states: The head of every man is Christ. That is true of every saved and unsaved man. Paul is not talking only about Christians. Christ is the Lord of every man. He is the head of every man, and whether every man acknowledges it doesn't change this fact. Regardless of how a man responds to Jesus Christ, Jesus Christ is still in the plan and program of God—the head of every man. But this verse says more than that. It also says

that the man is the head of the woman. Paul isn't talking only about husbands in this phase. Christ is the head of every man whether he is a Christian or not, whether he is a husband or not. Likewise in the plan of God, man is to be head of the woman whether that man is a husband or not and whether the woman is a wife or not. He is talking about the relationship of the sexes, and he says very clearly that the head of the woman is the man. Paul made it very plain in 1 Timothy 2:12 where women are commanded not to teach nor usurp authority over men but to be in silence. This would seem to make it very clear as to what a woman is to do in regards to the Church. God has made a place for the woman in the Church. We can see in the lives of many women of the New Testament how their lives touched the ones around them.

Exhortation

It is not my intention to put women down nor to

The Harvesters

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TRAINING PREACHERS SINCE 1969

place them in a place that the scriptures do not sanction. What the scriptures say is to be our rule and guide in all matters of the Church. God gave the scriptures through the inspiration of the Holy Spirit. The scriptures are to be a lamp to our feet and a light to our path way. This we must obey. For the good sisters of the Lord's Church I give thanks to the Lord and it is my prayer that there will be more like you.

To the liberals that want the Lord's Church to conform to this day and time I pray for your souls. To the Elders of the Lord's church I hope and pray that you, most of all, will take a stand and will not give in to the forces of darkness around us today. We must have good strong Elders in the church today. Without this oversight the Lord's Church will fall as the devil would have it. [John is from Indianapolis, Indiana and is graduating from the *Florida School of Preaching* this month, editor.]

**Gospel Preacher
Fired
For Preaching Truth**

"Recently, brother **Robert Lupo** was fired by the Buhl Church of Christ for preaching the truth on scriptural marriage, divorce, and remarriage. He was given no notice and is,

subsequently, without a source of income. If anyone knows of a congregation in need of a young but experienced preacher, he can be contacted at the address listed below. Robert has 5 children, including a newborn, and is currently in need of any assistance your congregations can provide, both physical and spiritual. Please, open your hearts so brother Lupo and family can continue in the Lord's service!"

Robert Lupo
1009 Burley Avenue
Buhl, Idaho 83316
(208) 543-8939

[The above was reproduced from *The Doctrine of Christ*, April 1992. The address is 540 North 6th East, Mountain Home, Idaho 83647. Many of our readers will recognize Robert as a graduate from the *Florida School of Preaching*. We are saddened for Robert and his family but understand the temperament of some brethren when this subject is presented biblically. Some will not assist us in training preachers because they have chosen to depart from the Bible on the same subject. We are not surprised for we know how John the Baptizer died. We take comfort in the truth that the Lord commended John, not Herod and Herodias. **We**

are convinced that Robert will provide some congregation a faithful preacher, editor.]

March 30, 1992



Dear Brethren,

I enjoy receiving "The Harvesters" and the splendid articles contain therein—are pleased you publish the truth and keep the good work going.

Happy to contribute to a cause I feel is strong and able to help others learn more of God's precious word.

Sincerely,

/s/ Cornelia Bradshaw
Longwood, Florida

April 1, 1992



I am so thankful for hearing that the school is doing so well. Keep up the good work.

In Christian love,

/s/ Jessie Edwards
Anderson, Indiana
[Contribution enclosed]

March 31, 1992



Dear B.C. and Staff,

It was good to visit earlier this month and I regretted that I could not have stayed longer. Thank you *Florida School of Preaching* for the "freebie"

books.

May God continue to bless your work and may he continue to send good men to prepare in the gospel.

In Christian love,
/s/ Brian Kenyon
Enville, Tennessee

March 28, 1992



Dear Brother
Stearnsman:

Tapes of your lessons on false teachings relative to the millennia theories have come to me from Wesconnett in Jacksonville. We are enjoying and benefiting from them. . . .

Enclosed check is to help the work there.

It seems incredible that the brotherhood is in such turmoil because of false teachings which have characterized the denominational world through the years. But it seems that the church has to be purified periodically and "those who are not of us" may be identified and sent on **their** way. It amounts to a re-

jection of God and a denial of the Bible as relevant truth for today.

May God continue to bless you in the work of the school and those assisting in the training of faithful men to proclaim the ever-living message of salvation to lost men and women.

Fraternally in the Redeemer,

/s/ Bert Brown
Buena Vista, Georgia

**Bellview Lectureship
Bellview Church of Christ
4850 Saufley Road
Pensacola, Florida 32526
(904) 455-7595**

The Theme of the annual lectureship is "Current Crises Challenging The Church." The date is May 9-13, 1992.

Brother **B.C. Carr** is speaking Tuesday at 2:15 p.m. His topic is "Problems in the Pulpit." For information write or call.

Some of the speakers are Willie Bradshaw, Ronnie Hayes,

Bobby Liddell, Terry Claunch, Eddie Whitten, Andrew Connally, Noah Hackworth, Roy Deaver, Daniel Denham, Winfred Clark, Garry Barnes, Steve Waller, Jerry Martin, Bob Duncan, Guss Eoff, Robert R. Taylor, Jr., Larry Middlebrooks, Harrell Davidson, Garland Elkins, Jerri Manasco, Ira Y. Rice, Jr., Allen Webster, Garry Brantley, Ronnie Hayes, Buster Dobbs, and Joe Gilmore.

Summer Class
Preachers Using Computers
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May 26. 7:00 p.m.
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