

The sermon on Male Leadership was unable to be completed due to time constraints.

The points mentioned during the sermon were:

- 1) **The Foundation of Male Leadership**
- 2) **The Continuation of Male Leadership**

The third and final point that was not mentioned is...

3. The Objections to Male Leadership

Objection: In 1 Timothy 2:11-12 Paul forbade women to speak in church because they were not learned and educated in his day

Response:

Can you say for sure all ladies in the 1stC were uneducated?

- What about ladies like Priscilla who was of benefit in teaching theology to Apollos (Acts 18:24-26)?
- Or what about ladies of wealth and influence in Berea who studied the Scriptures to see if what Paul said was so (Acts 17:10-12)?
- Or what about the mother and grandmother of Timothy from whom he was taught the Scriptures and the way of salvation? (2 Timothy 1:5, 3:15)

Furthermore, if 1 Timothy 2:11-12 bans ladies for speaking in public worship because they are uneducated then surely it also bans uneducated men?! But this is not what Paul says so surely cannot be the meaning of 1 Timothy 2:11-12.

Reality: 1 Timothy 2:11-12 forbids women from official office in the church (in line with the foundation of Genesis 2 and all other teaching of Scripture) as well as forbidding women the role of teacher in the church.

Objection: In Galatians 3:28 Paul removes the distinction between men and women

Galatians 3:28 says, "There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither bond nor free, there is neither male nor female: for ye are all one in Christ Jesus."

Response:

- The theme of Galatians is how a person is made right with God. Is it by our works or our faith in Christ?
- The focus of Galatians is therefore on the vertical relationship between God and men rather than horizontal relationships between men and women. In fact, neither chapter 3 or any other chapter in Galatians deals with the roles of men and women or their relationship with each other.

So what does this text say?

- Genesis 3:28 literally reads, “there is not here Jew or Greek, there is not here servant nor freeman, there is not here male and female, for all ye are one male in Christ Jesus”. The word for “one” is masculine – declaring us all to be male in Christ
- The theme here is of inheritance:
 - God promised Abraham he would have a seed (not of many seeds but one male seed (Galatians 3:16) through whom the world would be blessed
 - This one seed is Christ – a perfect, male person.
 - When we put our faith in Christ we become united to Him and from God’s perspective, God sees us in Christ. God sees and loves all of His church just as He sees and loves His one perfect Son.
 - This means that for those who put their faith in Christ (v26) we are all seen equally and loved equally by God – Jew or Gentile, master or servant, male or female. We are loved equally by God!

Reality:

- This verse does not teach the removal of gender in Scripture or the removal of distinct roles of men and women! Instead it simply highlights the equality of the worth of men and women in salvation. Something founded again on Genesis 1:27.

Note: if Galatians 3:28 did remove gender from Scripture then it would contradict many other teachings in Scripture such as the sins of Homosexuality and transgenderism, as well as denying the gender-specific commands from God for men and women in marriage. (Ephesians 5). This cannot be for the Holy Spirit does not contradict Himself.

Objection: Paul’s counsel was for the culture of his day not of ours

Response:

- As has been shown, Paul always argues from the foundation of Creation (Genesis 1-3) and not culture.
- While culture will vary from country to country and generation to generation, human nature and the foundation of creation does not.

John Calvin declared the need for the church today is to conform to the apostolic church for the apostolic church is the only true church. Any deviation from it and you are in error! After all, the apostles did not think up their own ideas but taught the teachings Christ gave them (John 16:13). The apostolic teachings therefore come with Christ’s absolute and perfect authority (Matthew 28:20-21) and no one has the right to change the teaching of Christ who reigns today and forever.

Objection: In Ephesians 5:21-33 Paul tells wives and husbands to submit to one another – thus showing the interchangeability of their roles and the denial of male headship/leadership.

Response:

- This is silly. Why would Paul deny male headship in Ephesians 5:21 and then go on to teach male headship in Ephesians 5:22-33 and illustrating marriage with the Gospel of Christ as Groom and the church as the Bride (Christ clearly being the head of the church in 1 Corinthians 12)?
- The reality is that in Ephesians 5:21 Paul is concluding his teaching in chapters 4 and 5 with the general application that all people, men and women should love and submit to one another. Having mentioned submission, the apostle in verses 22-33 enters a new section on marriage and the submission that needs to occur within it based on the Scriptural teachings of male headship, ultimately illustrated in the Gospel of Christ.

Objection: If men are failing to become good leaders in the home or the church then women need to step up and take on these roles!

Reality: Paul never once gives an example of this nor does he ever teach it or endorse it. Instead Paul's argument for male leadership is creational not situational and therefore the creation-mandate is to be applied. If male leaders are failing to become good leaders then pray to God to change the situation so His will can be fulfilled rather than taking matters into your own hands and wisdom. Abraham learned the tragedy of doing this when he took the fulfilment of God's will into his own hands and committed adultery with Hagar to bring about the promised seed. The seed never came through Hagar, it came through Sarah. Abraham ought to have looked to God in prayer, trusted God and been patient.

Objection: If people are greatly blessed through the preaching of a gifted woman then it is ok.

Response:

- God has spoken through ungodly and wicked people such as Balaam (Numbers 22-24). God has also spoken through a donkey. Does this mean we should let wicked and ungodly people into the ministry because of God's message being delivered through them? Not at all!
- The question is not, Does it work? The question is, Is it Scriptural?
- The question is not, are women godly, mature, wise and gifted for many are (perhaps even more so than many men). The question is, Has God given women the role of leadership in the church/home? The answer is no!
- Just because a person has a gift does not give them a right to use it in an official capacity!
 - E.g. If the son of a British prime-minister grows to be a mature, wise and gifted politician does this mean he has the right to enter into parliament and address the nation as the prime-minister? Not at all! Just because a person has a gift does not give them a right to use it in an official capacity! Only those who are appointed/elected/ordained to an office have the authority to be in that office.
 - E.g. if the son of an elder grows to be wiser and more godly than his father does this mean he has the right to enter into the session (unelected) and serve on the church session? Not at all!

Objection: We have progressed from the day of the apostle Paul and know better than the customs of the Bible.

Response:

- In Numbers 16 the sons of Korah felt they had progressed from the format of God's ordained leadership and resented the leadership of Moses. God vindicated His leadership format and His leader, Moses by opening ground and swallowing the sons of Korah up!
- In 1 John 4:6 the apostle John said, "We are of God: he that knoweth God heareth us; he that is not of God heareth not us. Hereby know we the spirit of truth, and the spirit of error". If anyone fails to hear, accept and follow the teaching of the apostles which comes from the teaching of God Himself (John 16:13, Matthew 28:19-20) then you are rejecting God and are in error!
- Paul goes further in 1 Corinthians 14:38, "But if any man be ignorant, let him be ignorant". That is, if you wish to be ignorant of God and God's teachings, God will be ignorant of you and will not acknowledge you on the day of judgment as His!

While people can fail to obey and apply the teaching of God's Word on secondary matters such as male leadership through ignorance. But to fail to obey and apply such teaching through arrogance, rebellion and stubbornness is dangerous! To do so is to reject Christ as King of your life and if Christ is not God of all He is not God at all!

Will you and I be part of the "many" mentioned in Matthew 7:22-23, "Many will say to me in that day, Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in thy name? and in thy name have cast out devils? and in thy name done many wonderful works? And then will I profess unto them, I never knew you: depart from me, ye that work iniquity."

May you and I never be part of this "many" – but see the incomparable and infinite love of Christ to us at Calvary and in response love Him with all we have through trust in Him and obedience to Him (faith and repentance).

John 14:15, "If ye love me, keep my commandments."