

## **Our Role in the Body of Christ**

**- By Frank Stout -**

The consensus for now has been adopted by Christ Covenant Church, (CCC), to follow Trinity Church's worship assembly roles of men and women for corporate preaching, teaching, prayers, leadership as the church gathers for worship. 1Tim 2:9-15; 1Tim 3; 1 Cor 14:34,35; (three passages that briefly describe role differences within church corporate worship that we have discussed)

I believe this is a good time to provide some food for thought since we do not have pressure to make decisions for CCC's church liturgy leadership roles.

I want to introduce biblically based roles that men and women have in the church body that are not encompassed in leadership of pastors, elders, deacons, teaching etc.

1, All believers have the wonderful privilege of studying/learning God's word so that we might serve Him to our utmost. Some of these passages will highlight women's important role in knowing the scriptures and the benefits the church reaped from this. There will only be a limited amount of leadership roles within a local church body thus the scriptures have much to say about our individual responsibility to become Christlike.

Duet. 31:12 Assemble the people, the men and the women and children and the alien who is in your town, so that they may hear and learn and fear the Lord your God and be careful to observe all the words of this law.

Luke 10:38-42 Now as they were traveling along, He entered a village; and a woman named Martha welcomed Him into her home. 39 She had a sister called Mary, who was seated at the Lord's feet, listening to His word. 40 But Martha was distracted with [a]all her preparations; and she came up to Him and said, "Lord, do You not care that my sister has left me to do all the serving alone? Then tell her to help me." 41 But the Lord answered and said to her, "Martha, Martha, you are worried and bothered about so many things; 42 but only one thing is necessary, for Mary has chosen the good part, which shall not be taken away from her."

Martha was not a bad example. Displaying hospitality is a Christian virtue but we see the emphasis on learning God's word.

Probably the clearest instruction in the New Testament revealing who the Messiah was. The women at the well received the teaching and passed it on to her town and many were converted.

John 4:22-26 22 You worship what you do not know; we worship what we know, for salvation is from the Jews. 23 But an hour is coming, and now is, when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth; for such people, the Father seeks to be His worshipers. 24 God is [a]spirit, and those who worship Him must worship in spirit and truth." 25 The woman \*said to Him, "I know that Messiah is coming (He who is called Christ); when that One comes, He will declare all things to us." 26 Jesus \*said to her, "I who speak to you am He."

Somewhat contrary to New Testament times with both Jews and Greeks, women were not respected as worthy of learning. This changed with the coming of Jesus Christ.

Acts 16:12,13 and from there to Philippi, which is a leading city of the district of Macedonia, a Roman colony; and we were staying in this city for some days. 13 And on the Sabbath day we went outside the gate to a riverside, where we were supposing that there would be a place of prayer; and we sat down and began speaking to the women who had assembled.

Gal. 3:28 There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free man, there is neither male nor female; for you are all one in Christ Jesus. Of course, the role God has given to male and female does differ. The equality of spiritual privilege, blessings, rights, and promises are for both men and women.

2, Teaching is an ability resulting of knowing God's word. Any man that is not an elder or pastor in the body will most likely not be teaching during corporate worship time standing up behind the lectern.

There are so many passages that come to mind that all believers are admonished to be able and ready to teach the hope that resides in them.

Eph 4:14-16 As a result, we are no longer to be children, tossed here and there by waves and carried about by every wind of doctrine, by the trickery

of men, by craftiness in deceitful scheming; 15 but speaking the truth in love, we are to grow up in all aspects into Him who is the head, even Christ, 16 from whom the whole body, being fitted and held together by what every joint supplies, according to the proper working of each individual part, causes the growth of the body for the building up of itself in love.

Teaching your children, your neighbor, friend, fellow worker the list goes on.

2Tim 4:2 preach the word; be ready in season and out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort, with great patience and instruction. You do not have to be behind the pulpit to accomplish this. If you do not know God's word it will be difficult to share the good news. Titus 2:3-5; Acts 18

3, Women are generally quite gifted in helps ministry. Proverbs 31 she helps make her husband as respected as he was. She played a great part in teaching godly wisdom to their children. She to care of their servants and showed compassion to the needy. Men can participate in these roles also, but different gifts are bestowed on those that make up the body. Heb 13:2; Rom 12:14-18.

4, Prayer and fasting is a privilege given to all who claim the name of Jesus Christ as Lord. Both men and women were involved in this form of worship in the New Testament church. Luke 2:36; Acts 1:13,14; Acts 2:41,42; Acts 4:23,24. You can find many more scriptures than these couple I am sharing. The point is this is an honor to come boldly to the throne of grace and have the creator of the universe be available, attentive, and pleased with both leaders in the church and those supporting the body.

5, Being involved with the great commission is required by all believers, Matt. 18:18-20 And Jesus came up and spoke to them, saying, "All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth. 19 Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, 20 teaching them to observe all that I commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age."

Luke 8:1-3 Speaks of many women who followed Jesus supporting Him as He proclaimed the kingdom of God.

“Soon afterwards, He began going around from one city and village to another, proclaiming and preaching the kingdom of God. The twelve were with Him, 2 and some women who had been healed of evil spirits and sicknesses: Mary who was called Magdalene, from whom seven demons had gone out, 3 and Joanna the wife of Chuza, Herod’s steward, and Susanna, and many others who were contributing to their support out of their private means”.

There are other aspects of ministry within the church that are available to all believers, but these examples are to help us focus on the many blessings we all have advancing God’s economy in this fallen world.

Lastly, as we seek being a leader in the body be sure to count the cost. James is replete with many warnings about the difficulty in carrying the weight of leadership and its inherent challenges. “Let not many of you become teachers, my brethren, knowing that as such we will incur a stricter judgment”. Of course, Paul states in 1 Tim 3:1 it is good to aspire to the office of an overseer but remember accountability, broad shoulders, and the work is not for the faint of heart.

God bless, I am enjoying working with each of you and am praying we seek His will in His word and unity of spirit through this framework prevails.

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