

27 Ecclesial life - The role of sisters

Principles



What happened in the beginning? Look at Genesis 1:26-28; Genesis 2:21-24; Genesis 3:1-19; 1 Timothy 2:12-14, and summarise the points that emerge.

On the one hand ...	On the other ...

The Law of Moses



How did God instruct the people through the Law of Moses? Think about what these groups of verses says, then try to come to a balanced conclusion.

Exodus 35:21-22; Numbers 5:5-7 & 6:2; and Deuteronomy 31:11-12

Exodus 13:2,12, Leviticus 12:3, Exodus 23:17

Numbers 30:2-15, Deuteronomy 1:13

On the one hand ...	On the other ...

In the New Testament?



Look at these passages, which make some general points about how God regards men and women, and the relationship between them.

Galatians 3:27-29; 2 Corinthians 6:18 and Luke 10:38-42

Ephesians 5:21-33 and 1 Peter 3:1,7

On the one hand ...	On the other ...

In ecclesial life

Look at 1 Peter 3:1-7. What are these verses saying about the role of women? in 1 Timothy 2:11-12 the word for 'silence'(AV), or 'quiet', 'quietly' in other translations, is the Greek word 'hesuchios'.

hesuchios ... indicates 'tranquility arising from within,' causing no disturbance to others. It is translated 'quiet' in 1 Timothy 2:2, RV (KJV 'peacable'); 'quiet' in 1 Peter 3:4, where it is associated with 'meek', and is to characterize the spirit or disposition.

This extract, and the two below, are from Vine's Expository Dictionary of New Testament Words

A different word - 'sigao' - is used several times in 1 Corinthians 14:28-35. Do these verses literally mean that sisters can make no sound at any time when other members of the ecclesia are present? What about singing?

sigao ... translated 'to hold one's peace', in Luke 9:36; 18:39; 20:26; Acts 12:17, 15:13 (in v12 'kept silence'; similarly rendered in 1 Corinthians 14:28,30,34)

In the same passage in 1 Corinthians 14 another word is used, which is translated 'speak'. Whatever it was, women were not allowed to do it. The Greek word is '*laleo*'.

laleo ... is used several times in 1 Corinthians 14. The command forbidding women from speaking in a church gathering, v34,35, is regarded by some as an injunction against chattering, a meaning which is absent from the use of the verb everywhere else in the NT; it is to be understood in the same sense as in verses 2, 3-6, 9,11,13,18,19, 21 23, 27-29 and 39.

What does 'speak' mean in those other verses?

Priscilla and Aquila

How would you understand the role of Priscilla in Acts 18:24-26?

What are we to learn from all these passages?

What about head covering?



1 Corinthians 11:1-5

So what should sisters do?

What should brothers do?