

“CAN WOMEN BE PREACHERS?”: WOMEN, MINISTRY, AND CHRIST’S CHURCH

CONTEXT

One of the most debated issues in the Church today is that of women in pastoral leadership positions as they preach to and guide God’s people. As a result, it is important to have a conversation about this sensitive subject, especially with the growing amount of female preachers who feel called to ministry. Are we still allowing women to speak and teach only in Sunday School? Let’s learn what the Bible says about women, ministry, and Christ’s church.

Why is this a Question?

- 1) Women being allowed to preach or pastor is an issue of _____.
 - a) There are both men and women who believe that the Bible places restrictions on the _____.
 - b) For centuries, women have been prevented from being _____ or _____ within religious denominations due to incorrect doctrinal beliefs passed down.
 - i) The underpinning of erroneous doctrinal beliefs is _____ and _____.
 - ii) Apostle Paul’s words in the New Testament have been _____ and _____ to prevent women from proclaiming the Gospel or pastoring God’s people.
 - (1) 1 Timothy 2:11-14
 - (2) 1 Timothy 3:8-13
 - iii) Paul’s words in the New Testament are _____ to provide context for that time period but are not _____ for what God purposed in the beginning.

What Does it Mean to Preach?

- 1) Preaching is (by definition) – the delivery of a _____ or _____ to an assembled group of people, typically in a church context.
 - a) Rev. Dr. Elaine Flake defined preaching as “revealing and proclaiming the _____ of _____ as recorded in the biblical text, in one’s own personality.”
- 2) Preaching is meant to draw _____ closer to God.
 - a) The goal of preaching is to be _____ over being _____.
 - b) Is the preacher _____ people closer to God?
 - c) Gender doesn’t determine who draws; the _____ determines that.

What Does it Mean to Pastor?

- 1) Pastoring is (by definition) – a person who has been ordained to _____ and care for the _____ of others.
 - a) Duties within pastoring may include preaching, teaching, administering sacraments, and counseling others in the community.
 - i) You can be called to _____ and not be called to _____.
 - ii) Not all good preachers are good _____.
- 2) The word “pastor” is taken from the biblical metaphor of _____.
 - a) Ephesians 4:11 – a shepherd nurtures and guides while meeting the practical needs of the community.

Who Qualifies to be a Preacher or Pastor?

- 1) The simple answer – none of us who feel called are actually _____.
 - a) As a result of sin, we all should be considered _____ of the call.
 - b) Yet, God _____ those that are called with what they need (Hebrews 13:21).
 - i) The Holy Spirit empowers us all to do God’s will according to God’s purposes, not man’s plans.
 - ii) Acts 2:17-18
- 2) So, are women as qualified as men to preach or pastor? The answer is ____.