

Elder Bobby Willis



### **Godly Women! Divinely Submissive**

Today's society is certainly different from biblical times, especially the times of the early New Testament. The Civil Liberties Union, the Women's Right's groups, and feminist followers have changed the view point to what they think a woman's role should be.

If you are a female reader, please read on before you come to what might be considered the "*wrong conclusion*" of what the bible says concerning the role of women from a godly perspective. Please consider that Christ Himself was submissive in a divine sense. In I Corinthians 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.**" Notice please the three submissions mentioned in this one verse - 1st. Man submissive to Christ. 2nd. Woman submissive to the man. 3rd. Christ submissive unto God.

Paul further illustrates this in I Corinthians 15:8, "**And when all things shall be subdued unto him, then shall the Son also himself be subject unto him that put all things under him, that God may be all in all.**" The "**all things shall be subdued unto him**" includes both male and female. However, the priority here is "**God may be all in all.**" We must keep this thought in mind or else the flesh will blind our understanding.

Let us consider the godly women of the Bible who were submissive to the will of God. Look at Romans chapter 16 for an example in view of accusations that the "Pauline letters" were so anti-feminine. There is no foundation for this charge. Consider the number of women mentioned in Romans 16:

1. Phoebe faithfully served the church in Cenchrea and was commended for her diligence. The church was told to "**assist her in whatsoever business she hath need of you: for she hath been a succourer of man, and of myself also**" (Romans 16:1-2)

2. Prisca (Pricilla) was a fellow-worker in Christ Jesus. Paul said she, along with Aquila, **“laid down their own necks: unto whom not only I give thanks, but also all the churches of the Gentiles”** (Romans 16:3-5).
3. Mary had **“bestowed much labour on us”** (Romans 16:6), which means she had provided for the welfare of the Apostles and Disciples as they came and went in proclaiming the gospel.
4. Tryphaena and Tryphosa were also laborers for the cause of Christ, along with Persis, whom Paul said **“laboured much in the Lord”** (Romans 16:12).
5. The mother of Rufus was to be saluted, which meant to be greeted with a godly greeting (Romans 16:13).
6. Julia and the sister of Nereus were mentioned as worthy of being saluted in a godly manner (Romans 16:15).

These godly women were seen by Paul as a vital part in furthering the cause of Christ in the early Christian church.

Women are given a subordinate role to man in terms of leadership in the church. The bible never tells women to be submissive to any man when it concerns ungodly behaviour, unlawful acts, or abusiveness. However, there is no humiliation or degrading factor in submission to the will of God. We are all to submit ourselves **“one to another in the fear of God”** (Ephesians 5:21).

The man, who was given the leadership role by God, must lead in a godly manner and be submissive to God’s will in all things. Being in submission to those in divinely appointed roles of authority is honorable in the sight of God, for both men and women. We must remember that divine submission (scripturally based) is honorable and pleasing to the Lord.

Is there equality in the scriptures concerning men and women? Yes, when it pertains to the matters of salvation and blessings. Women occupy the same (equal) status before God, **“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”** (Gal. 3:28). This verse is proof that in the love of our Lord, He sees us as the same, washed in the blood of the Lamb, and presented unto Him by His Son, holy and without spot or blemish, **“That he might present it to himself a glorious church, not having spot, or wrinkle, or any such thing; but that it should be holy and without blemish”** (Ephesians 5:27).

Many other women could be mentioned whom are spoken of in the scriptures: Deborah, Ruth, Esther, Hannah, Leah, Naomi, Rachel, Rebecca, and others of the Old Testament. Mary (mother of Jesus), Magdalene, Martha, Elizabeth, the Samaritan woman, Anna, and others of the New Testament. I am thankful for the numerous, godly women, who serve the Creator with loving grace and dignity in this day and age. **“Think About It”**.

