

Women In Leadership

After Eve was deceived, in Gen. 3:16, God said to her, *"Your desire will be for your husband and he will rule over you"*. This headship authority of man has never been rescinded anywhere in Scripture but rather it has been clearly confirmed in the New Testament. 1 Tim. 2:11-14 say, *"A woman should learn in quietness and full submission. ¹²I do not permit a woman to teach or to have authority over a man; she must be silent. ¹³For Adam was formed first, then Eve. ¹⁴And Adam was not the one deceived; it was the woman who was deceived and became a sinner."* In these verses, God has again declared man's authority and by connecting it with Gen. 3:16 He confirmed its continuance since the Fall. By linking 1 Tim. 2:12 back to the Garden, God has made it abundantly clear that the authority of man in this verse is not referring to a local church, special circumstance or a cultural situation but that the authority of man continues from the Fall to today.

1 Tim. 3:2 says *"the overseer must be above reproach, the husband of but one wife ..."* A woman cannot be an overseer because she cannot be a husband.

Neither can a woman be a deacon, as *"A deacon must be the husband of but one wife"* 1 Tim 3:12. 1 Cor. 11:3 makes a categorical and unambiguous statement where it says that *"the head of every woman is man"*.

There simply isn't a verse in the Bible which allows a woman to have authority over spiritually mature men. The only conceivable possibility is in a situation where there is no man willing or capable of doing the job. Man's position as head of the household further emphasises that women are to be submitted to the authority of man. Eph. 5:22 says *"Wives, submit to your husbands as to the Lord. For the husband is the head of the wife as Christ is the head of the church"*.

In an attempt to justify women in leadership, verses which have either unclear meaning, debatable interpretation or are one off situations are stretched or interpreted in a biased manner. At the same time, without an ounce of biblical warrant, clear speaking verses are dismissed as cultural. Unless unclear verses are interpreted in the light of clear ones, we will end up with an unclear doctrine and the certainty of contradictions.

The authority of man is also evident before the fall:

- 1) Adam was created first and this fact is stated as a reason for the headship of man in 1 Tim. 2:12-13.
- 2) Eve was created *"out of man"* (Gen. 2:22-23) as a helper for Adam – Gen. 2:18.
- 3) The entire human race is called 'man' after Adam – Gen. 5:2.
- 4) Although Eve was enticed to initiate the fall, God called Adam to account first – Gen. 3:8-9.

Sin entered the world through Adam even though Eve was deceived and sinned first – Rom. 5:12 & 1 Cor. 15:22. God did not take the first woman's act lightly. He punished her by making woman subject to the authority of man because Eve's weakness led to the Fall which required the death of His Son to reconcile man back to Him. God's lament in Isaiah 3:12 is, *"Youths oppress my people, women rule over them. O my people, your guides lead you astray; they turn you from the path"*.

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