

“Honoring Christ With Our Gender”

Judges 4:4-9

November 10, 2019

I. The Deborah Account and Gender Roles

- A. Does it show us the blessings of women in authority?
- B. Is it an indictment of passive men?
- C. Do we know enough about Deborah’s role to say either way?

II. Other Passages and Gender Roles

- A. A general pattern of male authority was established at creation.

1 Corinthians 11:3, 7-10 - ³ But I want you to realize that the head of every man is Christ, and the head of the woman is man, and the head of Christ is God...⁷ A man ought not to cover his head, since he is the image and glory of God; but woman is the glory of man. ⁸ For man did not come from woman, but woman from man; ⁹ neither was man created for woman, but woman for man. ¹⁰ It is for this reason that a woman ought to have a symbol of authority over her own head, because of the angels.

- B. Specifically, men have been granted authority in the church, in marriage, and in government.

1 Timothy 2:11-13 - ¹¹ Let a woman learn quietly with all submissiveness. ¹² I do not permit a woman to teach or to exercise authority over a man; rather, she is to remain quiet. ¹³ For Adam was formed first, then Eve...

Ephesians 5:22-24 - ²² Wives, submit yourselves to your own husbands as you do to the Lord. ²³ For the husband is the head of the wife as Christ is the head of the church, his body, of which he is the Savior. ²⁴ Now as the church submits to Christ, so also wives should submit to their husbands in everything.

Isaiah 3:12 - My people—infants are their oppressors, and women rule over them. O my people, your guides mislead you and they have swallowed up the course of your paths.

- C. The following reminders are necessary.
 - 1. All women are *not* under the authority of all men.
 - 2. The gender roles are *not* reflective of competence.
 - 3. The roles exist because those in authority and those under authority represent different aspects of our Lord’s nature and ministry.
 - a. Men with church, marriage, or civil authority represent Christ in His Lordship.
 - b. Women (and men) under authority represent Christ in His submission to the Father during His earthly ministry.

III. Our Culture’s Hostility to Biblical Gender Roles

- A. It stems from our universal rebellious nature and from past abuses by some men with authority.
- B. Young women in our culture need to remember the following:
 - 1. To reject our culture's "girl power"/"future is female" mantras.
 - 2. To honor Christ by not usurping authority, even from incompetent/unworthy male authorities.
- C. Young men in our culture need to remember the following:
 - 1. To be active like Christ when given leadership, not passive.
 - 2. To be immovable like Christ when making a righteous decision.
 - 3. To be willing to suffer while leading as Christ did.
 - 4. To be loving and meek like Christ, not abusive and intimidating.

IV. Gender and the Worship of Christ

- A. When men and women play their respective roles faithfully, Christ is honored.
- B. This should be the sole reason for all that we do, including living out gender responsibilities.

Colossians 1:15–18 - ¹⁵ He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn over all creation. ¹⁶ For by him all things were created: things in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or powers or rulers or authorities; all things were created by him and for him. ¹⁷ He is before all things, and in him all things hold together. ¹⁸ And he is the head of the body, the church; he is the beginning and the firstborn from among the dead, so that in everything he might have the supremacy.