

Does the Bible promote oppression of women? Difficult Questions ...

A. Out of the 7000+ verses in the NT, only about _____ verses are directly related to our problem of equal rights for women; but, it would be blind indeed to say there are *no* scriptures that are problematic for women's rights

B. 2 categories of problematic scriptures

1. Scriptures that imply women are second-class citizens in the _____, such as Col 3:18 and Ephesians 5:22
2. Scriptures that imply women are second-class citizens in the _____, such as 1 Timothy 2:12-15 and 1 Cor 14:33-36

C. The place to start is not with the Bible itself, rather it is with your approach to _____ the Bible

1. see sermon #2 in this series; Fundamentalist vs. Humanist approaches
2. Via Media - a more _____ approach that shows us both how God was involved *and* how humans were involved in the writing of this text

D. 3 helpful questions

1. **Are we struggling with the _____ of that day rather than God's inspired, universal truth for all time?**

- Culture = "let the words of the Law be burned rather than read by a female"

2. **Are these verses _____ with the rest of the scriptures?**

- a. Gal 3:28, "There is neither Jew nor Gentile, slave nor free, male nor female; For all are one in Jesus Christ."
- b. Paul actually gave authority to many women, including Chloe, Euodia & Syntyche, Priscilla, Phoebe, Mary, Tryphaena & Tryphosa, Persis, the mother of Rufus, Julia, and Appia

3. **What is the _____?**

a. Women in the home? Eph 5:22 actually starts in *Eph 5:21*, which states "Husbands & wives should submit to each other out of reverence for Christ." The rest of that passage is simply Paul's attempt *in his culture and historical context* to explain what mutual submission looks like.

b. Women in the church? Paul is simply asking the people in the church to obey the _____, *given* the Law, the society, and the culture in which they lived. Paul's intent is to get them to avoid rebellious types of behavior that would have taken away from their witness in that society and culture. There are other times, such as in Galatians, when Paul *did* challenge the societal and cultural norms, but this simply is not one of those times.

- The point is *not* to teach us about the role of women in the church, rather "God's inspired truth" in this passage is simply, "Obeying the Law is usually a good thing"

E. Gal 5:13, "You, my brothers & sisters, were called to be a free people."

A. 10 B. home, church C. interpreting 2. balanced D1. culture 2. consistent 3. point 4. Law