

SAMPLE ONLY

GIRL, PREACH: A Woman's Call to Kingdom Purpose

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A Female Teacher of God's Word

The last example I will use is that of a female teacher. Her name was Priscilla. Let's dig in to what the Bible actually says about women teaching men in Acts 18:24–26:

Now a Jew named Apollos, an Alexandrian by birth, an eloquent man, came to Ephesus; and he was mighty in the Scriptures. This man had been instructed in the way of the LORD; and being fervent in spirit, he was speaking and teaching accurately the things concerning Jesus, being acquainted only with the baptism of John; and he began to speak out boldly in the synagogue. But when Priscilla and Aquila heard him, they took him aside and explained to him the way of God more accurately.

Can you say, "Wow!" The Word calls this man mighty in the Scriptures. And apparently, well taught in the way of the LORD—fervent, meaning he was determined, burning with passion for the Word. He was well versed, and taught the Word of God accurately— he was an anointed preacher.

Go back and read the verses line by line and see for yourself! In today's terms, we would say that this man was preaching the house down! So, what could a woman have taught an anointed, on-fire, man of God who was filled with the Word? The Bible says that she and her husband took him aside and taught him.

My first urgent point of discussion for those who say "no" to women teaching men is this: if she

is not allowed to teach a man—and many use 1 Timothy 2:12 and 1 Corinthians 14:34–35 to uphold this thought—then she should never have taught a male whether her husband was present or not. No teaching and no speaking in church means just that, doesn't it?

If we say that she could teach only because her husband was present, then we have already made up our own theology and usurped the LORD'S authority and instructions. Right? The woman was clearly gifted, appointed, and anointed—apparently in a great manner, or she would not have had the ability to teach this man of notoriety. She was not there just for support as some would like to minimize her to. She taught, and there are no minced words about that. Furthermore, she happens to have been named first, and that must be noted even though opposers violently dismiss this as unimportant.

I can grievously share that many have created loopholes to disqualify women ministers, and I have seen them do it for every single position she could possibly serve in unless it has to do with kids, cleaning, food, or administrative work. Are these Scriptures not enough to at least make us take a second look with a humble attitude and understanding that we could be very wrong no matter what our denomination continues to teach today?

This type of discrimination has been practiced by Spirit-filled and noncharismatic groups alike. To add to this disappointment, with my own ears, I have heard female ministers state that women pastors are the exception because we see only a few real-life examples today. Or they defend their spiritual leadership position by mentioning that their open door to ministry was provided for them only because a man gave up his position for whatever reason. How heartbreaking that we lower ourselves even to the “it was an accident for me to take up this mantle.”

Why not look at it in the sense that we see at least one woman in the Bible, and that is enough for you and me! Women are not bewitched or under the curse of the fall any longer—just like the men. We, too, like the boys, were redeemed, and when we read Scriptures that seem to limit spiritual opportunities or include restrictions because a person is a female or married, why not ask ourselves if there was something going on during the time of those writings such as the following in (1 Timothy 2:12–14):

But I do not allow a woman to teach or exercise authority over a man, but to remain quiet. For it was Adam who was first created, and then Eve. And it was not Adam who was deceived, but

the woman being deceived, fell into transgression.

Before we point and say “Oh that is clear!”, keep in mind that assuming that this instruction was for all women, at all times, in all instances would suggest that the woman is not redeemed from the curse. We either agree she was redeemed or not. If she was not redeemed, then she should never teach or preach, and she should remain quiet at all times with no exceptions. She will also be in big trouble with Jesus if this is the truth, and so will her husband for breaking God’s Word about teaching men. You follow the dilemma? To address the second most controversial Scripture regarding women in ministry, the Apostle Paul also stated in 1 Corinthians 14:34–35:

The women are to keep silent in the churches; for they are not permitted to speak, but are to subject themselves, just as the Law also says. If they desire to learn anything, let them ask their own husbands at home; for it is improper for a woman to speak in church.

It seems to be all we need to shut the door on women, but as the LORD instructed that I do in this book, I must provide examples of women ministers. Therefore, we must look at a few chapters before this referenced in 1 Corinthians 11:5: “But every woman who has her head uncovered while praying or prophesying disgraces her head, for she is one and the same as the woman whose head is shaved.”

Did you catch that? Women are praying and prophesying. This boils down to a simple matter—common sense. She cannot prophesy publicly if she is not supposed to speak in the church. This was a matter of a church issue at that place during that time. Go back to all the examples I have provided regarding the work women did. Our Heavenly Father is not confused. He did not allow women to speak, teach, prophesy, evangelize, or anything else in those times and then change His mind toward women today. If anything, the new covenant in Christ—His death and resurrection—truly solidifies the role of women in ministry.

There are many other explanations out there regarding these two restricting passages, but I will not elaborate much more because the LORD told me to “show the examples” of the women who were unapologetically used by Him. I will add that some scholars say that women were misleading the church and teaching that Eve was created before Adam, and that not having her hair covered suggested she was a temple prostitute. That is certainly something I encourage you to study. However, regardless of the opinions, we can go back to the facts and

examples and leave it there. Stay ready, as this will be a lifelong debate like many other issues.

Now is the time for women to rise up and equip themselves for kingdom business. There is no time to look for approval or to apologize. The summons to revisit the Scriptures is not a modern-day, twenty-first-century, get-with-the program demand. It is a genuine invitation to start walking out and adopting the equal, godly rights we girls have had all along.

Prayer: Father, give me a revelation of the desires of Your heart for women in ministry, including the fivefold ministry. Forgive me for not being an active participant in Your call. Your desires for me to take part in the kingdom of God can be fulfilled through a specific office, or simply as a Spirit-filled believer in Jesus Christ. Eradicate all false convictions in me, even and especially those that are deeply rooted in tradition and man-made religion. LORD, inspire me to do Your work. I will unapologetically answer. In Jesus's name. Amen!