

Why We Call Ourselves Stewards

There has been a tradition in some churches that women are not allowed to teach, even in grace churches. It has even been said that it is better to have no teacher than to have a woman teach in church. This is not Biblical. People who truly understand right division of the scriptures know that everyone must read verses in context if they are to correctly learn the word of God.

This short study will explain why we call ourselves stewards.

Most churches have a title(s) for the person or persons leading the congregation. In the Church, the Body of Christ, Paul mentions 3 offices; bishop, deacon, and elder. The qualifications for each office are very specific, and include the fact that each should be occupied by a man. Each description includes, "the husband of one wife."

1 Timothy 3:1-2

*This is a true saying, **If a man desire the office of a bishop**, he desireth a good work. A bishop then must be blameless, **the husband of one wife**, vigilant, sober, of good behaviour, given to hospitality, apt to teach;*

1 Timothy 3:12

*Let **the deacons be the husbands of one wife**, ruling their children and their own houses well.*

Titus 1:4-6

*To Titus, mine own son after the common faith: Grace, mercy, and peace, from God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ our Saviour. For this cause left I thee in Crete, that thou shouldest set in order the things that are wanting, and **ordain elders in every city, as I had appointed thee: If any be blameless, the husband of one wife**, having faithful children not accused of riot or unruly.*

Paul specifically mentions "elder women," helping us understand that "elders" without the identifier are men (male.)

1 Timothy 5:1-2

*Rebuke not an **elder, but intreat him as a father**; and the younger men as brethren; **The elder women as mothers**; the younger as sisters, with all purity.*

Here is why it is important to read for understanding. The King James Version of the Bible sometimes uses the masculine words, man, men, brethren, and others to include all people. Following are examples from 1 Timothy where "men" is used to mean "everyone." Christ gave Himself as a ransom for all.

1 Timothy 2:4-6

*Who will have **all men** to be saved, and to come unto the knowledge of the truth. For there is one God, and one mediator between **God and men**, the man Christ Jesus; Who gave himself a ransom **for all**, to be testified in due time.*

A few verses later, "men" is used to mean "males." We know this because he follows it with different information for women.

1 Timothy 2:8-10

*I will therefore **that men pray every where**, lifting up holy hands, without wrath and doubting. **In like manner also, that women adorn themselves in modest apparel**, with shamefacedness and sobriety; not with broided hair, or gold, or pearls, or costly array; **But (which becometh women professing godliness) with good works.***

This sets the background for understanding about stewards. Stewards have a very broad position description. The only qualification for a steward is that a man be found faithful. Since there is no additional information for women, the verse applies to men and women. A steward is a faithful person.

1 Corinthians 4:1-2

*Let a man so account of us, as of the ministers of Christ, and stewards of the mysteries of God. Moreover **it is required in stewards, that a man be found faithful.***

Paul told Timothy that Timothy was to commit the things that he learned from Paul to faithful men (in this context, faithful people) and those faithful people were to teach others also. We know Paul was talking about men and women because there was no additional information for women.

2 Timothy 2:2

*And **the things that thou hast heard of me among many witnesses, the same commit thou to faithful men, who shall be able to teach others also.***

Conclusion: it is Biblical for believing (faithful) women to teach in church.