



# Permissible or Prohibited?

*Women Speaking In Worship*

# The Extremes to Avoid:

**Extreme 1:** Contradicts God's authority by allowing women authoritative roles over men.



## THE ORDINATION OF WOMEN AS PASTORS

A view from the Bible, the writings of Ellen White, and the Seventh-day Adventist Church's on-going discussion



CHURCH

**Saddleback Church Ordains  
3 Women Pastors, Defying  
Southern Baptist Position**

# The Extremes to Avoid:

**Extreme 2:** Misinterprets silence as absolute, contradicting Paul's teachings.



# The Extremes to Avoid:

**Extreme 1:** Contradicts God's authority by allowing women authoritative roles over men.

**Extreme 2:** Misinterprets silence as absolute, contradicting Paul's teachings.

**Goal:** Seek the biblical balance between these two unbiblical positions.

# Defining Prohibitions

**Prohibited**: Women in authoritative roles over men in the church assembly.

*<sup>34</sup> 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. <sup>35</sup> 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. –1 Corinthians 14:34-35*

**Silent – Gk. Sigato**: complete silence, to stop speaking altogether

# Defining Prohibitions

**Prohibited**: Women in authoritative roles over men in the church assembly.

*<sup>11</sup> A woman must quietly receive instruction with entire submissiveness. <sup>12</sup> But I do not allow a woman to teach or exercise authority over a man, but to remain quiet.*

*–1 Timothy 2:11-12*

**Silence / Quietly – Gk. Hesuchia**: quietness / restfulness  
- not absolute prohibition on speech.

# Defining Prohibitions

**Prohibited**: Women in authoritative roles over men in the church assembly.

**Context**: Prohibition specific to the assembly of the church for worship and/or teaching:

- Assembly Preaching / Teaching – (1 Tim 2:11-12)
- Serving as Deacons – (1 Tim.3:8, “men of dignity”)
- Serving as Elders – (1 Tim. 3:2, “husband of one wife”)
- *Leading in any authoritative role over a man within the context of the church.*

# What is Permitted?

## Permitted Participation:

- Singing/Harmonizing
- Informal Ministry Settings – (*woman's studies, children's classes, evangelism, older women mentoring younger, hospitality, acts of service*)
- Audible Amens – Affirming Truth / Prayer
- Bible Class Scripture Reading / Q&A



# What is Permitted?

**Context:** 1 Corinthians 11:5 - participation under male leadership, but not absolute silence.

**Evidence:** Prophesying by women permitted through direct operation of the H.S. (*first century*), but still under the authority of male leadership.

- *1 Cor. 11:5 is used to harmonize scripture regarding the use of “silence” for women in the church –does not serve as an authorized directive for the church today.*

# What is Permitted?

## Evidence:

- Repeated commands to sing (*Eph. 5:19, Col. 3:16*) involves speaking and teaching through lyrics.
- Laboring for the gospel (*Acts 18:26, Rom. 16*) properly done under male oversight as the early church upheld scriptural roles.

# Upholding God's Wisdom

## Reasons for Role Distinctions:

1. They model the principle of headship as God designed (1 Cor 11:3, 1 Timothy 2:11-12)
2. Upholds God's created design (1 Tim 2:13, Gen 2:18)

## **The Call to Obedience**

Reject cultural protests against God's roles

God expects obedience in the home and the church

# **WHAT MUST I DO TO BE SAVED?**

**Hear and Learn** – *Rom. 10:17; John 6:45; 17:3*

**Believe** – *Heb. 11:6; John 6:29; 8:24*

**Confess the Lord** – *Matt. 10:32-33; Rom. 10:9-10*

**Repent** – *Luke 13:3; Acts 3:19; 17:30*

**Be Baptized** – *Mark 16:16; Acts 22:16; Gal. 3:26-27; 1 Pet. 3:21*

**Be Faithful Unto Death** – *Revelation 2:10*

**Go and Share the Good News!**

*Matthew 28:18-20; Mark 16:15-16*