

Should Women Teach and Preach?

Elder's Conference
Fred R. Coulter—May 27, 2011

We have one other topic to cover which Ed brought up because of his experience in some of the independent churches. He can tell you some horror stories that have gone on there, difficulties with it. Also I got an email from someone in Mexico that said, 'There are a lot of women preachers down here. Should women be preachers?'

So sent the email on to Gil for him to take care of it and answer what was going on there. But there are a lot of women preachers. There's even one woman pastor in Fort Worth. I heard some of them were leading songs. I thought Texas was where all the he-men were. What are they doing with a woman pastor in the Church of God? That's been for a number of years—hasn't it? About ten years, doing the whole thing.

Let's go to Revelation 2, because we encounter a woman there—don't we? I don't the name of this woman in Dallas, so I'm not equating her with this section of Scripture. However, it does talk about it and the first thing he starts out—let's see what Christ says to it, v 18, the Church in Thyatira. Now, if you haven't seen the *Israel of the Alps*, that's a good one to see. You can call the office or write for it, we'll send you the DVD. It's actually put out by the Seventh Day Adventists and I think it's interesting that they associate themselves with the *Israel of the Alps*—the Churches of God who fled Asia Minor in 325_{A.D.} and went into the Alps and they were there for 1,260 years.

Some of them, it is said, had the old Latin translation, which was more akin to the Greek than Jerome. Some of them only had the book of John. But they did their evangelical work, because it says, 'Go into all the world and preach the Gospel.' Well, they had to go into the Catholic world. What happened was this: There was the Churches of God out of England, the Welch and the Scots, and they came down into northern Europe and these went into southern Europe. So the Gospel was being preached. Of course, eventually the Catholics got them all.

But what they would do, since it was illegal to be a preacher other than a Catholic priest, they would go out as merchants and businessmen. And they would have things that they would sell. They would visit with their clientele and after they had sold their goods, they said, 'Well, we have something that is more valuable than what we have sold you that we will give you.' So, they gave them some written out Scriptures. This way, then, they weren't preaching.

At first they really resisted the pope and the mass and all of these things. But after awhile they gave in to the Catholic Church so they could survive and then they were left to their own devices. When the Catholics sent their soldiers up into the Alps to get them, instead of trusting on God, they trusted on their own tactics and they killed a lot of the Italian soldiers and things that were sent up to get them. But finally, because they weren't trusting in God, they were overwhelmed. Those that were alive, they put them in prison and by, I forget the exact year, but the pope persuaded the king of France, I forget which king it was, that all of his sins would be absolved if he would not only get rid of the Huguenots, but if he would get rid of those Christians up in the Alps.

They hauled them into prison, put them in dungeons and things like that. After a number of years the survivors were let go to go free in the middle of the winter to walk over the Alps. They finally hooked up with the Protestants in Geneva; there were very few that made it. When they got there, they were very surprised that the Sunday-keeping Protestants in Geneva had the whole Bible and they had translated it, and so forth. So that shows you how isolated they were.

But let's pick it up here with Revelation 2:18: "And to the angel of the church in Thyatira write: These things says the Son of God, He Who has eyes like a flame of fire, and His feet *are* like fine brass. I know your works, and love, and service, and faith, and your endurance, and your works... [he mentions the works twice] ...and the last *are* more than the first" (vs 18-19). I don't know if this carries through today with the Seventh Day Adventist Church, I can't say it dogmatically, but many of the things fit.

"But I have a few things against you, because you allow the woman Jezebel, who calls herself a prophetess... [the first thing they had was a woman teacher] ...to teach and to seduce My servants into committing fornication and eating things sacrificed to idols" (v 20). Very interesting— isn't it? One of these days we'll have a perfect view of all the history and we will know.

There are times when I have equated this to Ellen G. White as a modern end of this, but this is definitely referring to the Catholic Church because Jezebel was the daughter of the priest of Baal, which was sun worship. And of course, the Catholic

Church is sun worship. So that's the best you can do. You can't lay right in and say that is exactly it.

What about in the Churches of God? Let's see something here that's important. Too many people, and women in particular, think that God is picking on women. And when they only read certain Scriptures, they can certainly give that impression, especially when they read that Eve was deceived and was in sin. They don't read Romans 5:12 that sin entered into the world because of one man: Adam. Eve was deceived, but that tells us Adam was not. So that also tells us something else, too—doesn't it?

Here in Romans 16:1, Paul writes: "Now I commend to you our sister Phoebe, who is a servant... ['servant' here comes from the Greek 'diakonos' or 'diakonoi,' which then is a deaconess] ...of the church in Cencrea, *Charging* you to receive her in the Lord, in a manner worthy of saints, and to assist her in whatever she may need from you because she also has been of great assistance to many, including myself. Salute Priscilla and Aquila, my fellow workers..." (vs 1-3)—husband and wife.

They're pretty prominent in the book of Acts. God does not put down women. It just is we all have different functions and different roles, that's all. We need to all understand this. Are we all under authority? *Yes, every one!* We're all under authority of God the Father and Jesus Christ first of all. When we're out about in the society, are we under the authority of the law of the land? *Yes, we are!* There are even women who are in positions of authority over men, *but that's not in the Church.*

I had one woman who was a very good nurse, top nurse, a head nurse, and she had male nurses that worked for her. She came into the Church and she said, 'Well, what should I do, I'm over men? My employer put me over them, because I'm trained more than they are and I know more than they do so I have to teach them and help them. Do I have to quit my job?' I told her, 'Well, is the hospital the Church?' She said, 'No.' I said, 'Well, there's your answer.' That doesn't have anything to do with the Church or the Word of God.

We also know that in the days of Josiah, the men were so weak and too many of them turned their back on God that the only one left to find a message from God was to what? *Go to Huldah the prophetess*—correct? And so she gave a message from God to men. Well, she didn't take over the king's throne—did she? *No!* But did the king recognize what she said that it was a message from God and really continue to repent and bring a revival to Judah? *Yes!*

Then we have in the days of Barak. He was so weak that when God said go up and fight,

Deborah said go up and fight, and he says, 'I'm not going to do it unless you go with me.' She said, 'Go up and fight.' And he says, 'I'm not going to do unless you go with me.' She says, 'Okay, I will go, but it's a woman's victory.' She didn't get out there with a sword, but she went with him.

Then there are other instances concerning women in the Bible, both good and evil. So the question becomes: What about within the family relationship and within the church, because we can't control the world? Has anybody here been stopped by a woman highway patrol? That was pretty fair. She stopped you and said, 'Now you were speeding and you don't have a seat belt.' She gave you a choice: 'Which one do you want me to charge you with?' I've never been stopped by a woman highway patrol yet, but that's interesting. I better be still and make sure that I'm careful, because I may be.

Just like when you're watching a sports game and one of the commentators says, 'Well, this guy's never done that for so long.' Next time you see him, he's committed an error or done something, so I better be careful by saying I've never been stopped by a woman highway patrol yet, because I may encounter one here very soon and if I do, I won't tell you.

So here we find that God uses women and actually when you go back and you look at the creation, what was the last thing that God created? *Eve!* That puts women in a special relationship with God, as well. Contrary to some of the ideas of men, Mary was blameless. She bore Jesus. I'll pose the question and ring the bell^[noting speculation] and go on, which is: Since Jesus received His human nature through the genes and chromosomes of Mary and He never sinned, yet He carried human nature—how does God use our genes and chromosomes when we're resurrected? *We don't know!*

But when Jesus was resurrected, they recognized Him—correct? Even though he appeared as flesh and bone—remember it didn't say flesh and blood. So He appeared, meaning that He could transform Himself in the various stages of a spirit being. He also appeared to them in glory. When Jesus was resurrected, did God use the same genes that He put into Mary from the Father and also from Mary into Jesus? And will those genes and chromosomes that came from Mary always be in a spiritual form, however God uses them, for all eternity? *And my answer was: I don't know!*

But nevertheless, women are special to God and they participate directly in the creation of human beings in a very special way that's different from a man. Now men, in their genes and chromosomes, they have what is called the 'Y' chromosome and

that determines that when that unites with the egg from the mother, that that child is going to be a male, or a boy. And the men also have an 'X' chromosome. And when that unites with the egg of the mother, and women only have 'X' chromosomes, then when that unites with the egg of the mother, there's a girl.

Let's also understand something else: Who was the Creator of Adam and Eve? *The One Who became Jesus Christ*—isn't that correct? *Yes!* Since He made man and woman, He alone can be Savior of men and women. And when He came to the earth in the flesh, in order to be a male, He had to have the 'Y' chromosome from God the Father and the 'X' chromosome from Mary. No other woman has had that blessing. So we need to understand that. Women are special. Women have things that they can do that men can't do. Men have things that they can do that women can't do. That's why God says when there's marriage, we're to become one flesh.

Let's look at some Scriptures here and let's see some of the things concerning what we just discussed. Let's come to Romans 5 first of all. Some of these things I've just discussed we can put in the realm of *we don't know*. It's interesting, but don't make a doctrine over it. Things that are interesting that you can't answer, you look at it, you think about it, you pray about it, and if God wants you to have the answer, in time you'll find it, and if not, you won't.

Romans 5:12: "Therefore, as by one man sin entered into the world, and by means of sin *came* death; and in this way, death passed into all mankind; *and it is* for this reason that all have sinned." It's inherited! Men sin, women sin, and so forth. What was the sin of Adam? *He disobeyed God*—didn't he? *Yes, he did!* Had he done what he was supposed to have done, he wouldn't have allowed Eve to do what she did.

After God made Eve, Genesis 2:18: "And the LORD God said, 'It is not good that the man should be alone. I will make a helper compatible for him.'" We'll find this verified when we get to 1-Cor. 11. In the margin we have who was considered the most qualified expert in Hebrew on this, so we have in the margin: 'a counterpart, a sustainer beside him.' That's interesting—isn't it? Not in front of him, not behind him, but *beside him*.

God gave to women certain things in the way of how He created them that only they can do these things. The whole situation of the sin, it says there, we'll read a little later, that Eve was deceived and was in transgression. But we just read that by one man's sin, sin entered into the world, so they both sinned.

Let's look and see what happened here when God detailed out the results of their sin. This was His judgment and sentence. After they had eaten of the tree they shouldn't have eaten of, they hid themselves from the presence of God. Now where are you going to go to hide from God?

Genesis 3:9: "And the LORD God called to Adam and said to him, 'Where *are* you?.... [Of course, He knew where he was, but He wanted to get an answer from Adam. One atheist wrote, 'Well, how can God be God if He didn't know where Adam was and had to call for him?' *Well, He knew!*] ...And he said, 'I heard You *walking* in the garden, and I was afraid because I *am* naked, and *so* I hid myself.' And He said, 'Who told you that you *were* naked? Have you eaten of the tree which I commanded you that you should not eat?.... [And the man said, 'God, it's Your fault.] ...And the man said, 'The woman whom You gave *to be* with me, she gave me of the tree, and I ate'" (vs 9-12).

I don't think that's what He said after Adam awoke from his deep sleep, and God led Eve by the hand and said, 'Adam, here's your wife.' I think He had other words to say about that at that time. So he said, 'The woman.'

"And the LORD God said to the woman, 'What *is* this you have done?' And the woman said, 'The serpent deceived me, and I ate'" (v 13). Yeah, but Adam watched her do it. Because you read v 6: "...She also gave to her husband with her, and he ate."

Verse 14: "And the LORD God said to the serpent, 'Because you have done this you are cursed above all livestock, and above every animal of the field. You shall go upon your belly, and you shall eat dust all the days of your life.'" That's why you find legless snakes. Then He talks about the enmity He would put between them and prophecy of the coming Savior.

Verse 16: "To the woman He said, 'I will greatly increase your sorrow and your conception—in sorrow shall you bring forth children....'" (vs 16). It doesn't just merely mean the pain of delivery. That means also after Cain killed Abel, she suffered the emotional trauma in a different way than Adam did. *In sorrow*—isn't that true?

All of you who have children, have your kids done thing that you don't approve of? And who lies awake at night and worries about it? *Mamma*—isn't that correct? Lose sleep, yes—*mamma* worries about things, even when the kids are grown up—*mamma!* Poppa in a different way. And if she talks to Poppa and he says, 'Mamma, don't worry, it's going to work out.' But she has a nurturing and caring nature to where she wants to help comfort her

children all the time and doesn't like to see them in difficulties and pain and sorrow—isn't that correct? Men do not have that kind of emotional makeup. Men say to women, 'You don't understand.' And women say back to men, 'You don't have any feeling. You don't understand.' I'm repeating this from my own experience.

Verse 16: "...Your desire shall be toward your husband, and he shall rule over you" (v 16). Now that has never changed. The word there does mean to be a barbarian, you know, like with a Capitol One credit card, the barbarians and their axes and their mallets and all of this sort of thing, dragging the women with one hand. Doesn't mean that at all. The men are responsible for the women. God made it that way.

This may help us understand why there was polygamy in the Old Testament. Just a little sidebar here, because lecherous men read that and say, 'Oh, I wished it was like in the old days in the Bible, I could have many wives.' Solomon tried 1,000 and 300 concubines and look how that turned out. And the women say, 'Oh, you lecherous men!' But who are the ones that went to war? *The men!* And you read the battles, thousands died. That means there were thousands of widows.

- Can they plow?
- Can they drive oxen?
- Can they defend?
- Can they fight?

Maybe if you come across some Amazons every once in a while, maybe they could. Or like in the modern age where the Russians gave steroids to all their female athletes and they looked really beefed up. What did God do? *God had men take care of the women* and they could bring forth children. Because after you kill off so many men, how are you going to balance out the population? So that's a different set of circumstances than we have today.

However, I think, when we begin the millennium maybe something like that will also be in effect because how many men are going to be killed? That's not God giving His blessing to polygamy, that is God having men take care of women because they can't fend for themselves and God didn't mean for them to fend for themselves. And that they could bear children and they would provide for the women and the women would take care of the children and take care of the household. I don't know how the arguments went on if it was a crowded household. I don't know how that worked and I don't want to get in the middle of that, because that might be like entering into a catfight.

Notice Adam's sin and this has been the sin of men all along. This is why women's lib

movements come along. This is why when men do not do what they're supposed to do and after a period of time women see what men are supposed to do and don't do it, like in today's society, they take the initiative and do it. Men come along and say, 'Well, you women shouldn't be doing that.' And women say, 'Well, you didn't take the initiative to do it, so I had to do it.'

It's like Moses and circumcision of his son. What did his wife say after she circumcised them? '*You're a bloody husband to me. You should have taken care of that before.*' Even Moses had his weakness. Notice what the weakness is. Even though our wives are to give us counsel and to give us understanding and things like that, to stand beside us and sustain us, we love our wives; our wives love us. We have our rough spots and things during life, because that's just the way it is. That helps build character and love and understanding.

I'm not going to ask anyone to raise their hands if they have never had an argument in their family, never had a dispute between husband and wife, never had a problem of siding with children, and a divided family like that, because all go through it, because that's the carnality of human beings. Isn't that true? *Yes!*

So here's Adam sin, v 17: "And to Adam He said, 'Because you have hearkened to the voice of your wife... [Instead of God. That's the meaning it. God said what? *Don't eat of the tree!*] ...to the voice of your wife and have eaten of the tree—of which I commanded you, saying, "Your shall not eat of it!"—the ground *is* cursed for your sake. In sorrow shall you eat of it all the days of your life. It shall also bring forth thorns and thistles to you, and *thus* you shall eat the herbs of the field; in the sweat of your face you shall eat bread until you return to the ground, for out of it you were taken; for dust you are, and to dust you shall return'" (vs 17-19). No one has stopped that except Christ.

Are there societies that oppress women? *Yes!* Actually, there's a small tribe in China where the women rule over the men, all of them, and they suppress the men. Very rare! I was surprised when I saw it. I didn't think you would have anything like that in China, of all places. Look at China and some of those valleys in the mountains there, they can be very remote. This was one of those remote valleys.

But also there's another thing that we need to take into account, too: ***God holds the man responsible!*** He does. Let's see a prophecy of what happens here at the end-time when women have taken over. When all of the electrical and mechanical slaves that we have today to do work for us, women do things quicker and they have liberty to

do other things. That's fine, nothing wrong with that, because we will see that God has given brains. Yes, women can think and sometimes they see a lot of things that men don't see, because God gave women the nature to feel emotions in circumstances that men don't. They will feel things and sense things and try and warn their husbands. If they listen and it's true, it's probably good advice. Lots of times we don't and then what do we hear a little later? *'I told you so'*—right?

Isaiah 3:1: "For behold, the Lord, the LORD of hosts, takes away from Jerusalem and from Judah the stay and the staff, the whole stay of bread and the whole stay of water, The man of might and the man of war, the judge and the prophet, the diviner and the ancient, The captain of fifty, and the honorable man and the adviser, and the cunning charmer and the skillful enchanter.... [we could put that in modern-day language today] ...'And I will give young lads *to be* their princes, and capricious children shall rule over them.... [Do we have that? *Yes!* What is that? *That is the failure of fathers and mothers!* Isn't it interesting, when you read about a king who does thus and such when he's really evil, and his mother was so-and-so? Remember that? *She didn't train him properly!*] ...And the people shall be crushed, every man by another, and every man by his neighbor; the young shall rise up against the old, and the base against the honorable'" (vs 1-5).

That's exactly the society we have today, v 12: "As for My people, children *are* their oppressors... [more so than ever before] ...and women rule over them...." You watch the ads. Look at the ads on television. Who is always the one who knows more and is smarter and has the answer, but the smart woman and the dumb man—right? And there are a lot of them that way. There are a lot of men who just give up to their wives and surrender and just follow along. That's not a good situation. What does that do to the women? *That emboldens them even more!* They really don't like it, so then they have more contempt for their husbands and the husbands withdraw more, etc. I'm sure you've all seen that. Blondie/Dagwood thing! 'Women rule over them.'

"...Oh, My people, those who lead you cause *you* to err and destroy the way of your paths" (v 12). Now what do we have? We have all kinds of sin legislated into the law, because of the diverse society that we have. Out in the world that's the way that it is. In the Church, when we come out of the world, what do you have to do? If you're a man and you've been giving into your wife all the time, let her rule the roost and run the whole show, then you've got a lot of things you need to do to unlearn

so that you take over your proper place that God put you as the head of the household.

I don't know how much you can do when you've let it go on for years and years and years. You have to make that decision as you go along. If women who come into the Church, they have to take less of a lead, then you need to figure out what you need to do.

Let's come to the New Testament and let's see what God has to say here concerning women. Let's first of all come to 1-Timothy 2:8; he covers quite a good ground here: "Therefore, I desire that men everywhere pray, lifting up holy hands without anger and *evil* opinions." In other words, you pray with a pure heart to God.

I don't how long you can hold your hands up, but I don't think God expects us to get a prop like they did with Moses and every time we pray hold up our hands like this. But nevertheless, that would be one thing in reaching out to God.

Verse 9: "In like manner also, *let* the women adorn themselves with clothing that shows modesty and discretion... [Boy, do you have a fight on your hands with most women today. They have plunging necklines clear down to the belly button.] ...not with *elaborate* braidings of the hair, or with gold, or pearls, or expensive apparel."

In other words, don't make clothing the whole thing of your life. That is a tendency of women—right? Who puts out all the fashion magazines? *For women!* Isn't that true? *Yes!* God says that's the vanity of women. Have a Godly appearance, dress well, do good; if you have some jewelry, fine. Don't get carried away. I saw a woman one time, she had three rings on every finger. I looked at that and I said, 'Oh, my, you have a lot of rings.' She said, 'Yes, I love them all.'

Verse 10: "But *with that* which *is* fitting for women who profess *to have* reverence for God—with good works. Let a woman learn in quietness... [That means not in talking back, rebellion. That does not mean that you do not speak. That does not mean that you do not have discussions. That just means that you're not there with a loud mouth.] ...and *be* submissive in every respect" (vs 10-11).

Because of that, I want to give a warning to all men. Just because your wives submit themselves to you, that does not give you the heavy hand of authority to oppress her. That is to keep leadership, within the family, from God. That's what that is for. You are to be kind, you are to be considerate, you are to be understanding, and you are to love your wife and you are to take care of her. I can tell you this, the woman is the weaker vessel. I don't care

how strong you feel. I can attest to you, of all the requests for anointed cloths that I send out, it goes 9 or 10-1 women requesting anointing, on the average. That doesn't mean men are more healthy, but it's also reflective of the emotional makeup of women, that not only being the weaker vessel, but also the more emotional vessel that they can come down with sicknesses and illnesses because they are so wrapped up in worry and anxiety. And women tend to be very unforgiving of one another. All of things that we've covered about anxiety and things like this, women have it more than men and so they come down with more sickness.

What happens when you worry yourself sick to death? Interesting way to put it; and you lie awake and night and you can't sleep, lie awake at night and can't sleep. Say you have four or five children and you wonder where this one is and what he's doing, where that one is and what they're doing. And you've been worried about them ever since they were able to walk. And where are they, where are they going? And then they get a little older and where are their friends and who are their parents and where are they? And then they get in trouble, and then, 'Oh, my, that's a terrible situation.'

Then they grow up and like I told one man, I said, 'When you have children and their first born it cost you just pennies. They get a little older, it cost you dollars. They get a little older, cost you dollars in increments of five. They get a little older, dollars in increments of ten. When they're grown up, it's dollars in increments of hundreds and maybe thousands of dollars for your children'—isn't that right? *Yes!* Men have that worry about it, but women worry:

- How are they?
- What's happening?
- Are they well?
- Are they warm?
- Do they have enough food?
- Who are their friends?

'Oh, I wish he wouldn't date that person. Oh, I wish they wouldn't go out with that person. Oh, my did you see that girlfriend that my Johnny has. Oooo, I wouldn't get caught dead in those clothes. Boy, I hope nothing happens in the car.'

So you worry at night and you hope, whatever the name of your daughter is. I don't want to use a name, lest someone think I'm picking on them. I don't want to have her come to me and say, 'Mom, guess what?' *Oh, no, are you really?* 'No, I just lost my purse.'

Verse 12 says it all: "For I do not permit a woman to teach..." This has to be *in church, in an assembly*. Later it says that the older women are to

teach the younger women how to be proper wives, how to take care of the family, how to take care of children. You are to be a walking encyclopedia of what to eat, what to drink, what happens when there's no breast milk. What do you do, how do you help your children. You have to be a walking encyclopedia on how to you help in childbirth.

Men, when it comes time for children to be born, are worthless. We've had all of our children at home, so I know what it's like. You know what I did? *I walked back and forth!* Dolores says, 'What are you doing walking back and forth? I'm doing all the work.' Then she would groan and moan and I would hurt, oh, my back hurts. But women are to be experts in those things. Just think how much healthier our children would be if they were.

Isn't that much better helping children grow up to be healthy, happy, and have good minds to be educated than to turning them over to a babysitter to feed them the soy powdered milk so they destroy their lives to begin with, in their health, and you run off to a glorious job as a secretary someplace. Or as I see it and I feel sorry about it all the time, I see some of these women who are mail carriers, out there trudging. The one who delivers the mail where our office is, she's walking through the building, and I've often thought when I've seen her doing that and there are days when she really looks down and it's hard to do. And I thought, I wonder if she would be happier if she were home taking care of the house and the family.

Today, Satan has got that all turned around that today the mortgage payments are so high that most women have to work just to get along. And a perfect setting to also cause women to get more sick because now they're more worried because they're off doing a job someplace and where are their children and what's going on in school? What's going to happen when they home from school? 'They get home at 3 and I don't get home till 6.' Oh, oh. All of those things. Isn't that right? Am I wrong? Yeah, it happens!

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All of us are not spring chickens or roosters, so we've all learned a few things and we've all had our feathers plucked; we know that. We need to cover these principles so we understand, because unfortunately—and I don't see it here in any great degree with anybody, but I do remember this. I was talking with a man who was contemplating coming with CBCG up in Canada.

So Wayne Stenhouse and I went over, it was over near Toronto where we went. He had a wife that ran the show. He was an elder. I stayed at their house. She's the one who did all the talking. I talked with him, she'd answer. I'd be looking at him. Here

comes the answer over here. This went on for about three days because we also drove up north to another area north of Toronto to see some brethren up there that he knew. Then we came back and we stayed at a hotel there in Toronto. I think it was Friday night that we were talking.

I'd be looking at him like this and talking; she'd answer. And I'd look over here and talk to him; she'd answer. This went on three days. So finally I said, 'Please, let me talk to your husband and don't you answer.' Whoopee-do! Went over like a lead balloon that fell 20,000 feet out of the sky.

He couldn't calm her down and she couldn't be still all night and couldn't sleep. Boy, the next morning they didn't show up for Sabbath services. I think that was the thing. Maybe not quite like that, maybe it was they were there at Sabbath services and then this was Saturday night and then they didn't show up for a Sunday morning function. I forget exactly what it was.

Poor Wayne. They came after Wayne. 'Did you know this, did you know that? You should have heard what Fred said. He told my wife to shut up.' You just think common courtesy. If you're talking to someone, you'd expect an answer from them. But for three days it was, 'Hello, how are you?' *I'm fine, thank you!* That was the most difficult situation I've ever had in all my life. And poor Wayne; I think they were pretty good friends, too. I don't think they have ever gotten over that.

What's so hard about doing what God says? And in the final analysis, we'll all be happier. It's like one man told his wife, 'You want me to be nicer to you, quit correcting me all the time. If I do need things that need to be done,' he said to her, 'pray and ask God to show what it is.' So she quit correcting him all the time and lo and behold, they're getting along better. It's just that simple, because I think he told her, 'What if I corrected you every time you did something wrong? How would you take that?' So sometimes put the shoe on the other foot.

We've already covered the rest of it here. Adam was formed first, then Eve. We'll talk about that a little later. Adam was not deceived, but he still sinned. When women quit being women and men quit being men and they mix the roles, like they have today—and some of that is very nutritional, too; we can't get into all of that—***then things are upside down and they don't work good.*** But if you go back to what God says:

- love each other
- help each other
- become one flesh

and so forth—we'll read it the way that God wants it to be—then things are going to go along a whole lot better. And guess what? *Everybody's going to have a better emotional condition*—aren't they? The wives are not going to be angry and frustrated and the husbands are not going to feel like they're hen-pecked. It just works better that way. Try it, you'll like it.

Titus 2:1: "But *as for* you, speak the things that befit sound doctrine. *Teach the* older men to be temperate, serious-minded, respectable, sound in the faith, in love, *and* in patience; In like manner, *teach the* older women *to be* in *their* behavior as *it is* fitting for godly women, not slanderers, *and* not enslaved to much wine, *but* teachers of that which is right" (vs 1-3). God expects women to be teachers, teachers to women, but not over men.

And you can put in the mix right there, you can put in your notes, the Prov. 31 woman. You read that:

- she's got brains
- she's got intelligence
- she knows how to handle money
- she knows how to run the household
- she knows how to take care of her children

and she does such a good job that her husband praises her—right? Does that sound like oppression? *No!* That's just fine.

In the days of Jesus, women did the weaving and making of clothes. Remember Lydia, who was a seller of purple? That was her business. And they did things like making clothes and selling them and brought in income into the family that way. She did it at home, took care of the home, took care of the family. And that's the way that it should be.

Verse 4: "That they may teach the young women to love their husbands and to love their children." Sometimes that takes teaching. We're not the first people in the world to ever come up with psychology and psychological teaching, of positive thinking, and encouragement in helping people coming along by talking nice to them. That's what this is all about, too.

I think this: If the husbands do not oppress the wives and the wives do not pick on the husbands, but they work at helping each other, everything's going to run a whole lot smoother. God created both of us so that we come together to become one flesh and we both learn from each other. We both grow together. We both get old together, be married many years, have many experiences. And we go through all the things with all of our children and then their children's children. If you have a good enough health, then their children. Then finally before you die, you have a big family reunion with the picture

of this family tree. When that picture comes out, you look at your wife with your gray hair and her gray hair, and you say, 'My, look what we started.'

Now notice this, v 5: "*To be modest, chaste, keepers of the home...* [That's what is missing today—isn't it? Kids come home to empty houses. That's the devil's playground.] ...*to be good and to submit themselves to their own husbands, so that the Word of God may not be blasphemed....* [I wonder how God looks at the church where a woman is a pastor?] ...In the same way, exhort the younger men *to be sober-minded*. In all things you yourself set an example of good works; in doctrine uncorrupted, serious-minded, *and sincere*; *use sound speech that cannot be condemned, so that the one who opposes you may be ashamed, having nothing evil to say about you*" (vs 5-8). That depends on their attitude.

Let's come to 1-Corinthians 11; there's that dreaded chapter. Remember, they had things upside down in Corinth in so many different ways. Now, let's understand this in the way that God wants us to understand. Let's look at it this way.

- Who's the Head of the Church? *Christ!*
- Does He love the Church? *Yes!*
- Does He care for the Church? *Yes!*
- Does He provide for the Church? *Yes!*
- Does He correct the Church? *Yes!*

All of those things are all examples from Christ. Is He going to marry the church? *Yes!* And we'll see how He does the things, so that it's all going to work together for good. And that's what God wants.

1-Corinthians 11:1: "Be imitators of me, exactly as I also *am* of Christ. Now I praise you, brethren, because you have remembered me in all things, and you are *keeping* the ordinances in the way that I delivered *them* to you. But I want you to understand..." (vs 1-3). He's got to have a clarification here. Now remember, in Greece they had the Oracles of Delphi and they had women priestesses. So consider the society from which they came.

Verse 3: "But I want you to understand that the Head of every man is Christ, and *the* head of *the* woman *is* the man, and *the* Head of Christ *is* God.... [That's the order that God has created. You don't want to go against the creation of God.] ...Every man who has *a covering* on *his* head when he is praying or prophesying puts his Head to shame.... [But you could never get a rabbi to read that.] ...But every woman who has *her* head uncovered when she is praying or prophesying puts her head to shame, for it is the same as being shaved" (vs 3-5). When does a woman pray?

- she prays at home

- she prays with her children
- she prays with her husband

When there's special music and a woman sings and it's a prayer, it is a prayer to song. When she sings and it's prophesying, then that is fine. It would have to do that because he says, 'I don't allow a woman to speak in church.' How could it be anything else?

Verse 5: "...or prophesying puts her head to shame, for it is the same as being shaved.... [Some women today shave their heads and they do look pitifully awful; they do!] ...For if a woman is not covered, let her be shorn...." (vs 5-6). We're talking about hair and hair length. I'm glad to see an improvement in hair length among the women. And I've deferred going through this for years, lest I offend some women. I don't want to offend men, but there are also longhaired men, too. What do you think every time you see a longhaired man? *Yuck!* What happens when you see a real shorthaired woman? *Yuck!* And guess what the length of the hair was of the woman who answered for her husband every time I was talking to him? It was not down to her ankles.

Verse 6: "...But if *it be* shameful for a woman to be shorn or shaved... [shorn is cropped really, really short] ...let her be covered. For, on the one hand, a man ought not to cover *his* head... [What do Jews have for prayer? *A prayer shawl!* No wonder they reject the New Testament.] ...ought not to cover *his* head, since he is *the* image and glory of God; but, on the other hand, *the* woman is *the* glory of man" (vs 6-7). Special creation for man and the man is a special creation for women to help in building God's family by having their own family and children so that God's plan can go forward. That's a tremendous thing. You ever thought of it? We are all in partnerships with God in His creation and in His plan, even with our children.

Verse 8: "For *the* man is not of *the* woman, but *the* woman *is* of *the* man. And also, *the* man was not created for the sake of the woman, but *the* woman for the sake of the man. For this reason, it is necessary for the woman to have *a sign of being under* authority on *her* head because of the angels" (vs 8-10).

That's very important, because look at all the things that happen to women when they're alone. Think of all the brutal kidnappings and rapes and everything like that that go on. It can be more than just cropped or shorn hair; it can be rebellion against mother and father. It can be completely innocent and someone just come along and kidnap and murder and kill. We've seen all of those things, because the women are the weaker vessel. They just are.

Verse 11: “Nevertheless, neither *is the* man separate from *the* woman, nor *the* woman separate from *the* man in *the* Lord.... [We're going to see in a minute, we are to become one flesh.] ...For as the woman *is* of the man, so also the man *is* by the woman... [Every man, other than Adam, has been born of their mothers—correct? *Yes!*] ...but all things *are* of God. Now you judge for yourselves... [Paul said, ‘Okay, you figure this out for yourself. You judge this. Use the mind of Christ, use the Spirit of God, you judge for yourselves.] ...Is it becoming for a woman to pray to God uncovered? Or does not even nature itself teach you that if a man has long hair... [We're getting into the real topic of the subject.] ...it is a shame to him? But if a woman has long hair, it is a glory to her; because the long hair has been given to her instead of a *veil to cover her head*” (vs 11-15).

Every Muslim needs to read that. You talk about oppression. Think of the poor women in the Muslim countries, especially those that have to wear burqas and look out like they almost have to have a telescope, walking down the street to see where they're going. And they're oppressed in many ways.

When people talk about men being the head of the wives, too many people think of the example of the Muslims where they have four women, treat them like they're kids, they can beat them and slap them around. If they do something they don't like, they can kill them. Not what God wants! God is love. He wants us to have love. We're to love each other. We're to care for each other. We're to uplift each other and be supportive in every way.

Verse 15: “...has been given to her instead of a *veil to cover her head*. But if anyone is contentious *over this issue*, we have no such custom, neither do the Churches of God” (vs 15-16). Of what?

1. long-haired men
2. short-haired women or shaven-head women
3. wearing a veil over your head

No such custom! Let's look at the ideal because we go from what is corrective—and that's pretty corrective there. I don't think I've given a sermon on this in ten years, you think that's enough space of time? Let's see what God wants here.

Ephesians 5:22: “Wives, submit yourselves to your own husbands, as to the Lord.” In order to do that you've got to have brains, intelligence, you've got to think. That doesn't just make you a ‘yes’ person. That doesn't make you less than a person. That gives you the fulfillment of being a woman. “...as to the Lord.”

That's quite a comparison—isn't it? You going to fight and argue against God? You going to

fight and argue against Christ? You going to correct Him, whatever it may be? Now sometimes, husbands, your behavior is bad enough that maybe your wife really needs to let you know how she feels and what's happening. That doesn't necessarily mean she's in rebellion against you. If you do things that are so bad that you, just like blithering going down the street, destroying everything in your path, and your wife doesn't say anything to you, then you know, she is not treating you in the right way.

But if she says, ‘Hey, look, what are you doing? Stop and think. What is happening? Do you understand what is going on? Do you realize what's you're doing?’ ‘*No.*’

Verse 23: “For the husband is *the* head of the wife...”

- that takes a lot of intelligence
- that takes the Spirit of God
- that takes love
- that takes dedication
- that takes understanding
- that that takes patience

Doesn't it? *Yes!* “...even as Christ is *the* Head of the Church; and He is *the* Savior of the body. For even as the church is subject to Christ, in the same way also *let* wives be *subject* to their own husbands in everything. Husbands, love your own wives...” (vs 23-25).

- Don't treat them with contempt.
- Don't treat them as less than you.
- Don't treat them with a superior attitude.

—any of those things. It doesn't mean that. *It means love them!* If there are things that needs to be corrected, you can correct them. Ask some questions you know and so forth.

Verse 25: “Husbands, love your own wives, in the same way that Christ also loved the church, and gave Himself for it” (vs 23-25). This is the whole goal:

- of the Church
- of each individual
- of marriage

Verse 26: “So that He might sanctify it... [That is, make it Holy.] ...having cleansed *it* with the washing of water by the Word; that He might present it to Himself *as* the glorious church, not having spot or wrinkle, or any such thing; but that it might be Holy and without blame” (v 26-27).

This is all to uplift your wife, all to help her, all to inspire her. And if you do that, she will be inspired to submit to you. Does that sound like a fair bargain? This is what God wants. I'm sure that some

who are going to hear this message, because I'm going to send it out, will kind of be chafing at the bit, or saying, 'Well, no, he just doesn't understand my situation.'

Listen, what I've been through, I understand 99%. I can't say I understand 100%. I understand! So you need to ask the question: Do you understand? If it's a real problem for you, either man or woman, well, maybe you ought to sit down and figure some things out yourself. Like Paul said, 'You judge yourselves.' Don't come and ask a minister to referee the situation. Part of being husband and wife are to work things out. Sometimes they work out smooth; sometimes they're a little rough; sometimes they're a little difficult; sometimes it's silence for a while, too. Isn't that true? But nevertheless, all of those are experiences that we go through so that we can build the character of Christ—isn't that it? Isn't that what God wants? What God wants is not exalting men and putting down women. It is not saying that women are any less of a human being than a man. ***No! Each one of us has a special relationship by our creation to God and then to each other!***

Verse 27: "That He might present it to Himself as the glorious church, not having spot or wrinkle, or any such thing; but that it might be Holy and without blame. In the same way, husbands are duty-bound to love their wives as their own bodies. He who loves his wife loves himself; for no man has ever hated his own flesh, but nourishes and cherishes it, even as the Lord *does* the Church.... [He brings out a very tremendous spiritual analogy of oneness.] ...For we are members of His body... [This took me some time to understand this, years as a matter of fact.] ...of His flesh and of His bones" (vs 27-30). And 'the flesh' means through Christ's sacrifice. And 'of His bones' referring to how Eve was created from one of the ribs of Adam. In the same way ***we are re-created in the image of Christ from the innermost being of Christ*** through His Holy Spirit. Does that make sense? That's something!

I didn't cover everything I could have covered, I suppose, but we need to leave these things in the same category of *judge it yourself* and whatever needs to be. Now you're going to be in a position that you're going to have to help other people. You're going to be in a position that someone is going to say, 'What should I do?' You've all gone through enough experiences—haven't you?—so you can tell them.

And another thing that's very important for us to understand is this: If you talk to anyone, whether woman to woman or man to man or man to woman or woman to man, in any kind of helping people with their problems, ***keep it confidential!***

Don't discuss it with your husband or your wife, because people come to you so that they can get some counsel. They don't want it to go any further than between the two of you. So make sure that you keep it that way. Then you will be able to help more people. Because the worse thing in the world that anyone ever wants is they tell someone about their problems and difficulties and next thing they know they hear little birds flying around the congregation—right? That doesn't work out very well. Always remember that.

There are things, when I am counseling and talking to people, I don't discuss them with my wife. When she talks to different ones, she doesn't discuss them with me. That's the way that it should be.

In the way of preaching and teaching, ***women should not develop doctrine***. God left that to the ministry to do. That doesn't mean you don't have points of understanding you can add to your husband's or others understanding. Or by asking a question can bring something out which is very important.

But I've received papers from wives of elders who develop doctrine and their wives ended up running their husbands and it's led to disaster. If that happens and the elder never recovers, then somewhere along the line he will disqualify himself as being an elder for letting his wife rule over him. So there's also that thing that we need to consider.

Scriptural References:

- 1) Revelation 2:18-20
- 2) Romans 16:1-3
- 3) Romans 5:12
- 4) Genesis 2:18
- 5) Genesis 3:9-13, 6, 14, 16-19
- 6) Isaiah 3:1-5, 12
- 7) 1-Timothy 2:8-12
- 8) Titus 2:1-8
- 9) 1-Corinthians 11:1-16
- 10) Ephesians 5:22-30

Scriptures referenced, not quoted:

- Genesis 3:15
- Proverbs 31

Also referenced: DVD: *Israel of the Alps*
(produced by the Seventh Day Adventist Church)