

## For Our Information

Vickie McNeas is dealing with pain.

Phyllis Jackson is doing better.

Dan & JoBeth Henderson returned home safely on Friday.

Jerry Henderson is doing well following his surgery. A lot of rest and moving slow are ahead for him. Thank you for the prayers and concern over the past week.

Others of our number have ongoing issues and need our prayer.

**Remember one another as we pray  
to the Father each day**

## Contact Us

We want opportunities to speak with others about our work in the Lord's Kingdom.

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**We seek only to serve God according to His Will!**

minded women who understood that their differing role was not tantamount to insignificance. While we find not one instance where women functioned in a place of spiritual leadership over men, what we do read of are godly ladies who diligently prayed, taught, served, and labored -- sometimes at the risk of their own lives. And godly women can do the same things today!

Sisters in Christ, thank you for the tenderness and compassion you bring to the body of Christ. Thank you for your example of faith and zeal for truth. Thank you for the different way you have of looking at life and your undying passion for the Savior. Both the Bible and our own experience prove how vital you are to the success of the Lord's work. Don't let the world convince you your role is unimportant! Please don't embrace Satan's lie that says if you can't lead a mixed assembly, then you can't work. Though we men fail to verbalize it nearly enough, I can assure you we are eternally grateful you are on the team!

# Seeking His Righteousness

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## Women's Role In The Church

### Terry Slack

Like the early church, Christians of the 21st century face the constant danger of being influenced by the prevailing culture surrounding them. Today that influence manifests itself in a variety of ways, but none more pronounced than the changes regarding women in religion. In her book, *Megatrends for Women* (1992), Patricia Aburdene predicted, "Women will continue to revolutionize the most sexist institution in history: organized religion." Tragically many denominations have already surrendered to such pressure with females comprising nearly 20% of their "clergy." Even among some churches of Christ you will now find women taking lead roles in mixed assemblies.



*There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free man, there is neither male nor female; for you are all one in Christ Jesus.*

***Galatians 3:28***



## Meet With Us

### Worship Services

Sunday 10:20 am & 5:00 pm

### Bible Classes

Sunday 9:30 AM

Wednesday 7:00 PM

1512 Tanner St. Malvern, AR

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When delving into this topic it is important to note our opinions are as irrelevant as those of the feminists. If the Bible should give approval to women leading the church, then we should repent and allow them to fulfill the role God intended. If, however, we should find the opposite, then the people of God must resolve to stand firm no matter what societal forces might be exerted.

The truth that women are precious in God's sight should be obvious. She is God's creation, not man's invention (Genesis 2:22). The Bible is equally clear that when God looks at a person He doesn't see their race, social status, or their gender (Romans 2:11). While there are numerous differences between the sexes, both male and female are made in the image of God (Genesis 1:26,27) and are perceived by Him to be spiritual equals (Galatians 3:28). Paul also instructs us that "in the Lord" there is to be a mutual dependence (1Corinthians 11:11); that is, in the home or the church men and women are to function as teammates in pursuit of common goals rather than opponents in competition.

However, the Bible also makes it unmistakably clear that men and women are not identical when it comes to roles. The divine design for both home and church is for man to occupy the role of headship and woman the role of submission (1Corinthians 11:3; Ephesians 5:22f; 1Timothy 2:11f). More than any other element, this is the one that brings out the hostility of the world. And what is the primary reason? The world erroneously believes submission implies inferiority and insignificance.

However, to say God has given woman a realm of service within the church that differs from her male counterparts is not to declare her irrelevant or

## Store In My Heart

### Ruth 1:16-17

But Ruth said, "Do not urge me to leave you or turn back from following you; for where you go, I will go, and where you lodge, I will lodge. Your people shall be my people, and your God, my God. Where you die, I will die, and there I will be buried. Thus may the Lord do to me, and worse, if anything but death parts you and me."

These two verses sum up the story of Ruth. She was a woman devoted to service. She was willing to do whatever was necessary to help Naomi, her mother-in-law.

A final passage gives a clue why her story is found here.

**Ruth 4:21-22** and to Salmon was born Boaz, and to Boaz, Obed, and to Obed was born Jesse, and to Jesse, David.

unimportant. On any given team you will find a variety of roles. In football, a lineman's job may not appear as glamorous as that of the quarterback, but let the quarterback try winning a game without him. In baseball, a pitcher's role may be unique, but he will never succeed without his teammate's bats and gloves. The same thing is true within the church. Though a woman's role differs from men, her contributions are absolutely essential to the continued health and growth of the body of Christ.

This truth is echoed repeatedly throughout the Bible where we find over 160 women mentioned by name. Additionally, there are scores of other references where they remain unnamed or when their presence is clearly implied. The gospels reveal how crucial women were to the ministry of Jesus. Mary and Martha opened their home (Luke 10:38f). Joanna and Susanna contributed financially to the Lord's work (Luke 8:3). A Samaritan woman boldly told others about Him (John 4:39). When most of the male disciples had fled, numerous female disciples could be found near the cross (Mark 15:40,41). And it was Mary Magdalene who devotedly came to the tomb early that Sunday morning, discovering it to be empty (John 20:1).

The importance of women continued in the early church where we read of the charity of Tabitha (Acts 9:36), the excitement of Rhoda as she announced the arrival of Peter at a prayer service (Acts 12:13), and the impressive knowledge of Priscilla (Acts 18:25,26). And while many are quick to accuse Paul of being a chauvinist, as he closes his letter to the church in Rome he mentions 27 people by name, commending each one for their efforts in the kingdom. Sixteen of the 27 are women!

Throughout the Bible we read of spiritually