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  **Who Am I:**

**Leadership: Covenant Relationships, Alignment, Women**

**“I do not pray for these alone, but also for those who will believe in Me through their word; that they all may be one, as You, Father, are in Me, and I in You; that they may also may be one in Us, that the world may believe that You sent Me. And the glory which You gave Me I have given them, that they may be one just as We are one: I in them, and You in Me; that they may be made perfect in one, and that the world may know that You have sent Me, *and have loved them as You have loved Me.*. Father, I desire that they also whom You gave Me may be with Me where I am, that they may behold My glory which You have given Me; for you loved Me before the foundation of the world.” John 17:20-24**

**What is a covenant?**

A covenant is defined as, “A usually formal, solemn, and binding agreement: a written agreement or promise usually under seal between two or more parties especially for the performance of some action.” Websters Ninth New Collegiate Dictionary.

**The Lord is a Covenant Keeping God**

“Know therefore, that the Lord your God, He is God, the Faithful God, who keeps his covenant and His loving kindness to a thousand generations with those who love Him and keep His commandments.” Deut. 7:9

“Remember His covenant always: the word which he commanded for a thousand generations.” I Chron. 16:15

“I am God almighty; walk before Me, and be blameless, and I will establish My covenant between Me and you, and I will multiply you exceedingly. Abraham fell on his face and God talked with him, saying, ‘As for Me, behold My covenant is with you, and you shall be the father of a multitude of nations. No longer shall your name be called Abram, but your name shall be Abraham; for I will make you the father of a multitude of nations, and I will make you exceedingly fruitful, and I will make nations of you, and kings shall come forth from you. And I will establish My covenant between me and you and your descendants after you throughout their generations for an everlasting covenant, to be God to you and to your descendants after you.’” Gen. 17:1-7

“Christ redeemed us from the curse of the law, having become a curse for us-for it is written, ‘cursed is everyone who hangs on a tree’ – in order that in Christ Jesus the blessing of Abraham might come to the Gentiles, so that we might receive the promise of the Spirit through faith in Christ Jesus. For all of you who were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ. 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. And if you belong to Christ, then you are Abraham’s offspring, heirs to promise.” Gal. 3:13-14, 26-29

**Ministry of Reconciliation – Jesus**

John 3:16-17

II Cor. 5:18-21

Isa. 53:4-7

Luke 4:18-20

**“The work You have given Me” –**

John 17:4

Eph. 2:8-10

**“Father those whom You have given Me”**

John 17:6-11

Mat. 28:18-20

**Abide and Remain in Jesus to hear His heart**

John 15

**Alignment**

**The Body of Christ**

**Psm 68:6 – “God sets the lonely in families; He sets the prisoners free and gives them joy. But for rebels there is only famine and distress.”**

Eph. 2:19-22

Eph. 3:14-21

Eph. 4

**Mandates and Agendas – “The work you have give me.”**

**John 5:19**

**“And Jesus answered and said to them, “Most assuredly, I say to you, the Son can do nothing of Himself, but what He sees the Father do; for whatever He does, the Son also does in like manner. For the Father loves the Son, and shows Him all things that He Himself does; and he will show Him greater works than these, that you may marvel.”**

God’s heart revealed

God calls those together to complete the work

Agreement and commitment to the work

“I see what moves the Father, and I allow what moves Him to set my course. As a pastor, I know what it is like to watch other people’s dreams flourish under the umbrella of the ministry at my church. But my first concern is always with God’s agenda for us. When we consider other people for our board or leadership team, their agendas must go out the window. I do not pay attention to anybody’s agenda; no matter how lofty it is or how much money they have to accomplish it. I am immune to other people’s agenda until they lay them down and pick up my agenda, which God gave me for our church. Then and only then, their agendas become important to me. Their desires and wishes come alive in my mind as they share them with me. I believe that’s how the Father works. As He sees you and me surrender to His agenda, He’s suddenly interested in hearing what we have to say. Our yieldedness and surrender make Him vulnerable to our dreams. It becomes a co-laboring effort.” Bill Johnson, The Supernatural Power of a Transformed Mind, p. 146.

Family

**Recommended Reading**

**Covenant Relationships, Keith Intrater; Kenneth Copeland @** [**www.kcm.org**](http://www.kcm.org)

**Women of God**

**Original Mandate**

Gen. 1:26-28 – The blessing released to both male and female

Gen. 2:18 – Man’s helper; co-laborer

**Equality of position and authority was God’s intent – the same relationship as Christ had with the Father (denotes a place of honor).**

“But I want you to know that the head of every man is Christ, the head of woman is man, and head of Christ is God.” I Cor. 11:3 –

**Think of the Godhead – Father, Son and Holy Spirit**

All 3 are one, yet have different functions. The Son submits to the Father, yet has equal authority and power.

**Gal. 3:28 – “There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free, there is neither male nor female; for you are one in Christ Jesus.”**

**Acts 2:17-18 – “And it shall come to pass in the last days says God, that I will pour out of My Spirit on all flesh: Your sons and daughters will prophesy, Your young men shall see visions, Your old men shall dream dreams, and on My menservants and on My maidservants I will pour out My Spirit in those days; and they shall prophesy.”**

**Psm 68:11 – “The Lord gave the word; great was the *company* of those who proclaimed it.”**

**Company – Hebrew. ‘tsaba’- feminine in gender – a mass of women (an army) organized for battle.**

**The Bride of Christ**

**Bridegroom - Jesus**

“For I am jealous for you with godly jealousy; For I have betrothed you to one husband that I may present you as a chaste virgin in Christ.” II Cor. 11:2

John 3:29

**Bride – Church**

“Let us be glad and rejoice and give Him glory, for the marriage of the Lamb has come, and His bride has made herself ready.” Rev. 19:7

Rev. 21:2

Rev. 21:9

Rev. 22:17

Song of Solomon

**The Bride relates to her husband Christ as God the Son relates to God the Father**

Eph. 5:30-32

**The Bride of Christ (the church) is called to judge angels and men, things pertaining to life. This means that woman is also to be empowered to exercise dominion in loving harmony with and in submission to those in authority.**

I Cor. 5:12, 6:1-3

Eph. 5:21

**Headship**

**Our model – Jesus Christ**

Love

Servant

Cross

**Christ chose the Bride to co-labor with Him**

Mat. 28:18-20

Eph. 1:17-23

Eph. 3:14-21

**Same authority and power**

Mat. 10:7

Acts 1:8

Heirs

Gal. 3:29

**In Marriage – the husband is the head**

“For the husband is head of the wife, as Christ is the head of the church, He Himself being the savior of the body.” Eph. 5:23

Headship – the point man, the one out front

Marriage - Picture of Bride and Christ

Co-heirs

“Husbands, likewise, dwell with your wives with understanding, giving honor to the wife, as to the weaker vessel, and as being heirs together of the grace of life, that your prayers may not be hindered.” I Pet. 3:7

**In Marriage – the wife is to submit to the husband**

“Wives, be submissive to your own husbands so that even if any of them are disobedient to the word, they may be won without a word by the behavior of their wives, as they observe your chaste and respectful behavior.” I Pet. 3:1,2

“Wives, be subject to your own husbands, as to the Lord.” Eph. 5:22

**Single and Divorced women, and widows –**

Jesus Christ is your head

**Women in New Testament**

“By New Testament times women had been relegated to subservient, inferior, and un-biblical roles. In synagogues they were not allowed to speak or read. They were only to sit and listen in a special women’s section. Women were not allowed into the inner court of the Temple.”

In the time of Jesus the temple had six courts which emphasized ethnic and male-female distinctions.

1. outside court – court for Gentiles and foreigners

2. next court – where no Gentile could enter – restricted Court of Women

3. court of Israel – was for male Jews

4. court leading to the Holy Place – for priests only

5. Holy Place

6. Holy of Holies

“Concerning the positions of women in the Body of Christ, it is important to consider the differences in culture and customs throughout time. Women during the first few centuries, when the Bible was written, did not participate in religious services. They didn’t sing, read the Scriptures or recite prayers. Generally, a section was set aside for women, where they would sit silently. The objection to participation of women in religious services and in the teaching of the gospel wasn’t based on the teaching of Jesus. Instead, it was carried over from Jewish customs. Jesus never discriminated against women, and He even broke away from the Jewish ways to minister to them at various times. Circumstances compelled Paul to discourage women from preaching and reading in public because the customs were different. AT that time, women in the East were looked upon as being unequal to me and were not offered the same opportunities. Even today in Eastern countries, the customs in existence vary from those in the West. This is why we base our lives on the Word, and not on customs. Heb. 13:9 What’s important to remember is that, regardless of custom and time, women have the same amount of faith as men. And they can exercise it with the same results – because they are believers.” Kenneth Copeland

**Jesus broke down these partitions**

**Women as traveling companions and friends**

Luke 8:1-2

Luke 10:38-39

Luke 8:3

John 12:3

Mark 12:41-44

Luke 21:2-4

 **Women in N.T.**

**Mary**

Luke 1:46-55

**Anna**

Luke 2:36-38

**Samaritan Woman at well**

John 4:7-30

**With Him to the end and announced His resurrection**

John 19:25

Mark 15:47

John 20:1

Mat. 28:8

John 20:17-18

**Women and the Great Commission**

Mat. 28:18-20

For all believers – regardless of gender, color, race, or culture.

**Signs will follow those who believe:**

John 14:12-14

Mark 16:16-18

**Empowered to Witness:**

Acts 1:8, 14

Acts 2:4

**Paul Instructed both men and women**

I Cor. 11:2-16

**Gentile women labored with Paul in the Gospel**

Phil. 4:2,3 – **Euodias or (Euodia) and Syntyche**

Acts 16:13-15, Acts 16:40 – **Lydia**

Acts 18:24-28 – **Priscilla**

Romans 16:1-2 – **Phoebe** the deaconess. The historian Eusebius says she oversaw two churches and traveled extensively in ministry.

Romans 16:7 – **Junia** or (Junias) the Apostle

Junia is a feminine name in Greek. This was changed to the male form, *Junias*, after the 1300’s in Bible translations.

“Greet Andronicus and Junia, my countrymen and my fellow prisonsers, who are of note among the apostles who also were in Christ before me.”

Col. 4:15 – **Nympha** –

“Greet the brethren who are in Laodicea and also Nympha and the church that is in her house.”

Nympha’s name was changed to male form, *Nymphas*, and they changed the verse to read, “to the church that meets in *his* house.”

**Philip’s daughters**

Acts 21:8-9

**Elect or Chosen Lady** – The greek word for “lady” is “kuria”, which is the feminine form of “Kurios”, meaning “a respectful title”, “supreme in authority”. She may have been the senior elder or pastor of a church in her home.

II John 1:1-5, 10, Acts 20:17, 28-31

**The problem scriptures:**

The Jews clung to their traditions – circumcision, food laws, etc..- as well as:

Women were in the back of the synagogue and were not to speak

Women we to be only in the women’s court

“In some places women are still seated separately. The men had a hard time accepting women to teach them or to discuss doctrine. This was for men only. Jews grudgingly conceded that women could be saved but to integrate inferior creatures to speak or teach was very hard to tolerate. The women tended to flaunt their new found freedom. It fired their spirits and some became outspoken and boisterous. Others became curious and inquisitive. They would yell at their husbands, asking for explanations or questions, expressing objections and maybe giving a prophecy or an interpretation, usually in a disorderly manner. They had not yet learned to restrain themselves or had not been trained or disciplined in their new freedom in Christ and were exploiting their new liberty. Paul was trying to establish order and dignity.”

**I Tim. 2:12-15**

**“Let a woman learn in silence with all submission. And I do not permit a woman to teach or to have authority over a man, but to be in silence. For Adam was formed first, then Eve.”**

It is said that in Ephesus was a pagan culture with the goddess Diana, and that women gnostics were teaching that wrong doctrine that Eve was created first.

Teach – Gk - “didaskallo” meaning to “instruct or teach doctrine.”

Women (or men) were not authorized to establish the doctrinal standards. This was a function of the apostolic councils. Acts 15; Acts 2:42

They were not to teach contrary to this standard (men as well as women). Men were not to depart from the Apostle’s doctrine. II Tim. 2:17-18

An expanded translation of I Tim. 2:11-12 would read:

“But I suffer not a woman to teach doctrine contrary to that established by the apostles, and thus usurp authority over them; but to remain undisturbed.”

**Paul instructs women to teach:**

Titus 2:3-5

Sothis would be a contradiction. In this scripture Paul uses the Greek word “didaktikos” for the word “teach”. This word is also used when spelling out the qualifications of a Bishop or an Elder.

I Tim. 3:2, and II Tim. 2:24

**Problem passage I Cor. 14:34-35**

**“Let your women keep silent in the churches, for they are not permitted to speak; but they are to be submissive, as the law says. And if they want to learn something, let them ask their own husbands at home; for it is shameful for women to speak in church.”**

Paul is speaking here of order. In I Cor. 11, Paul had given clear instructions of how men and women should pray and prophesy. If Paul is saying here a woman should never speak, this would then be a clear contraction of what he had taught earlier.

* Woman – Greek word ‘gune’ meaning ‘wife’, not just any female. The instruction was for wives.
* Speak – the Greek word ‘laleo’ meaning “an extended or random harangue [verbal long, and intense verbal attack], to boast or call out, without proper decorum or respect for others.”
* Saith – the Greek word ‘lego’ meaning to “lay forth (an idea or doctrine) in words usually of a systematic or set discourse.”
* “Lego” was encouraged and “laleo” was discouraged.

An expanded translation of I Cor. 14:34-35 would read:

“Let wives abstain from (laleo) interrupting the meetings of the church with an extended or random harangue full of prideful boasting or calling out to others in a way that is without proper decorum or respect for others in churches: for it is not permitted unto them to speak (laleo – interrupt with an extended or random harangue or calling out to others) but they are commanded to be under obedience, as also saith (lego – to set forth [an idea or doctrine] in words of systematic discourse) the law. And if they desire to inquire about anything, let them ask their husbands at home; for it is shameful for them to speak (laleo) in the church.”

**Resources used in this teaching:**

Joan Melrose, Christian Life Teachings

**Recommended Readings:**

Cd’s - Honoring Our Women, Danny Silk @ [www.ibethel.org](http://www.ibethel.org)

25 Tough Questions About Women and the Church, J. Lee Grady

Rise to Your Destiny Woman of God, Barbara Wentroble