

What is a women's place in a Bible-believing church according to the Bible?

Now, this seems to be a very crucial question today. Everybody's talking about women's rights and women's lib and the women's place. And I'm glad to be able to say something with authority on the role that women should play in Bible-believing churches. Now, first of all let me say that I'm very thankful for all that women do for the Lord's work in many of its aspects and what I'm about to say is no down grading of women's ministries at all. I think God does give to women very significant ministries. I think God gives the spiritual gifts to women as well as to men, but if there is a restriction, the restriction is on the place where these gifts can be ministered. The great principle in the New Testament is that the leadership of the church should be in the hands of men. The problem in a lot of our churches today is not the fact that women are so called out of place, but it is that men are not in their place. If men would take their proper place of leadership, many of our problems which we sometimes wrongly attribute to women would not exist. So, undoubtedly, the great overriding principle in all of this is that men should take the responsible places of leadership. Now, of course, men can delegate responsibility to other people, other men or other women. I think there are certain places where leadership under the direction of men women might assume in a local church as long as the ultimate authority lies in the hands of the men. Now God did this for certain reasons. He did this because the nature of a woman being more sensitive is also sometimes more deceivable and he wants the church to be kept pure in doctrine and in life so he places the leadership in the hands of men. We are told in the 2nd chapter of Titus that women are to teach other women. The older women are to teach the younger women certain very basic things about their life and their activity and so it is quite clear that women can teach under certain circumstances. We are also told, however, that a teacher should never be the kind of teacher that would usurp authority from the leadership of the men. So, specifically I think that women can teach in many circumstances -- Sunday School and youth groups in church, but on the other hand whatever a women does she should always be govered and guided by the authority of the men of that church. And as I said before, I'm very thankful for all that women do not only in the local churches, but on the mission fields of the world they're serving God in very wonderful ways and I would not for a moment curb that. But the main principle is that they do what is directed by God through the male leadership of that local group.