

There are many opinions in different commentaries which permit women to teach and prophesy (Acts 21:8,9; see ref. Joel 2:28; Luke 2:36); and others who do not. We only have to read Paul's teachings in his epistles where he is for women ministers; and in other places like this one in I Timothy 2:12, which seems to be completely against women even to teach in the Church.

I Corinthians 14:34 - *Let your women keep silence in the churches: for it is not permitted unto them to speak; but they are commanded to be under obedience, as also saith the law.* But it goes on to say, *and if they will learn any thing, let them ask their husbands at home: for it is a shame for women to speak in the church.* Women, in this verse (v. 34), in the Greek, is rendered, wives. Phoebe was a deaconess of the church at Cenchrea (Romans 16:1,2). In Acts 18:26, Priscilla, the wife of Aquila, with her husband, taught Apollos at Ephesus, a gospel teacher himself, by explaining *unto him the way of God more perfectly.*

The Corinthian believers were a very unruly sort. You might say the church was a problem church. Paul was referring here (I Timothy 2:11,12) to a husband and wife issue. It is said, that the women, while on one side of the Church; and the men on the other side, were asking their husbands questions during the meeting by yelling across the room to them. This could be the case. By comparing Scripture to Scripture, it is a husband-wife issue.

*She shall be saved in child bearing.* I Timothy 2:15. Jesus was to come, and did come, through the womb of a woman. He is our Savior. This is speaking of the salvation that came into the world which made us free from sin through Jesus Christ our Lord who came into the world in a human way by virgin birth. A woman was given this sacred honor.

A Christian mother who possesses the essential qualities of faith and love and holiness, with modesty (RSV) can make a priceless contribution to the works of Christ; and marriage that is sanctified by these hallowed virtues contribute a degree of strength and health to the church which is absolutely essential to her well-being.

Paul writes to Timothy in II Timothy 1:5, *When I call to remembrance the unfeigned faith that is in thee, which dwelt first in thy grandmother Lois, and thy mother Eunice; and I am persuaded that in thee also.* This suggests that Timothy was taught, from childhood, the things of the Lord by his grandmother and mother.