

# The Culture of Honor 4

## “Honoring Women”

### Introduction

- ❖ In the last few decades there has been a move of the Spirit worldwide regarding the restoration of Fathering (Malachi 4:5, 6 “... Elijah will turn the hearts of the Fathers to their children...” Luke 1:16, 17 “... he will go before him in the spirit and power of Elijah, to turn the hearts of the fathers to the children...”). The Elijah spirit was the spirit of Fathering. Jesus said it was upon John the Baptist but the people did not recognize it
  - The key purpose is Restoration - Bring something back to its original intent. Mt. 17:10-13 and the disciples asked him, “Then why do the scribes say that first Elijah must come?” <sup>11</sup> He answered, “Elijah does come, **and he will restore all things.** <sup>12</sup> But I tell you that Elijah has already come, and they did not recognize him, but did to him whatever they pleased. So also the Son of Man will certainly suffer at their hands.” <sup>13</sup> Then the disciples understood that he was speaking to them of John the Baptist.
- ❖ The restoration of “all things” promised by the prophets Elijah and Moses ministries is not just limited to Fatherhood; it includes the full restoration of Women in their roles also.

Acts 3:18-22 “... God foretold by the mouth of all the prophets, that his Christ would suffer, he thus fulfilled. <sup>19</sup> Repent therefore, and turn back, that your sins may be blotted out, <sup>20</sup> that times of refreshing may come... and that he may send the Christ to you, Jesus, <sup>21</sup> whom heaven must receive until the **time for restoring all the things** about which God spoke by... his holy prophets... Moses said, ‘The Lord God will raise up for you a prophet like me from your brothers. You shall listen to him in whatever he tells you’”

What needs to be restored? Everything that Adam and Eve lost in the Garden.

- ❖ The relationship between Man and Woman was cursed as a result of the Fall. The true identity of men and women was corrupted by sin!

Genesis 3:15, 16 I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and her offspring; he shall bruise your head, and you shall bruise his heel.” <sup>16</sup> To the woman he said, “I will surely multiply your pain in childbearing; in pain you shall bring forth children. Your desire shall be for your husband, and he shall rule over you.”

- Four terrible results of the Fall (Ge. 3:15,16)
  - Fatherhood is ridiculed.
  - Men abdicate their responsibilities of headship in the home.
  - Men develop a tendency is to act chauvinistic and dominating toward women.

- Women have a natural tendency toward insecurity and/or defensiveness.

#### Crushed and/or Controlling

The Moses spirit and the Elijah spirit brings a revelation of our true identity now that the curse has been reversed by the Blood of Jesus (Galatians 3:13). We are now free to become all that we were created to be!

### Women Deserve to be Honored

#### 1) Women deserve to be Honored by virtue of their "Making".

##### a) Women were made to be Joint Rulers on this earth.

Genesis 1:26, 27 NIV Then God said, "Let us make mankind in our image, in our likeness, so that they may rule over the fish in the sea and the birds in the sky, over the livestock and all the wild animals, and over all the creatures that move along the ground." So God created mankind in his own image, in the image of God he created them; male and female he created them.

- i) Man is not to rule alone. God created males and females to be a team of joint rulers.
- ii) God originally intended women to have a lot of authority simply by virtue of being made in God's image with God's purpose.

##### b) Women have been aggressively targeted by the Serpent.

Genesis 3:15, 16 to the Serpent... And I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and hers; he will crush your head, and you will strike his heel." To the woman He said, "I will make your pains in childbearing very severe; with painful labor you will give birth to children. Your desire will be for your husband, and he will rule over you.

#### 2) Women deserve to be Honored in their covenant of "Marriage".

##### a) Women were made to be "one flesh" partners not property.

Genesis 2:21, 22 So the Lord God caused a deep sleep to fall upon the man, and while he slept took one of his ribs and closed up its place with flesh. 22 And the rib that the Lord God had taken from the man he made into a woman and brought her to the man.

##### b) Women were made to be "joint heirs" not unrecognized servants.

1Peter 3:7 Likewise, husbands, live with your wives in an understanding way, showing honor to the woman as the weaker vessel, since they are heirs with you of the grace of life, so that your prayers may not be hindered.

- i) Unhindered Prayer: Men this is frightening and beautiful at the same time. If you want a successful and unhindered prayer life, treat your wife with Honor!

- ii) The word for “weaker” in this context refers to physical weakness, not to moral, spiritual, or intellectual inferiority. So men were not to bully their wives physically or sexually.

A man who Honors his wife will protect, respect, and help her. He will stay with her. He will respect her opinions, listen to her advice, be considerate of her needs, and relate to her both privately and publicly with love, courtesy, insight, and tact.

Note: Nowhere in the scripture is Ge. 3:16 defined as the proper roles for men and women in marriage. This instead, is the result of the curse. He is not supposed to rule over her! She should not desire to be controlled and oppressed by him!

### 3) Women deserve to be Honored in the function of their kingdom “Ministry”.

#### Honorable Females in Early Church Leadership

##### a) Phoebe – a Leader of Many (Romans 16:1,2)

###### i) Bible Comparisons:

(1) English Standard Version - Romans 16:1, 2 I commend to you our sister Phoebe, a **servant** of the church at Cenchreae, <sup>2</sup>that you may welcome her in the Lord in a way worthy of the saints, and help her in whatever she may need from you, for she has been a patron of many and of myself as well.

(2) Young’s Literal Translation – Romans 16:1,2 And I commend you to Phebe our sister—being a **ministrant** of the assembly that *is* in Cenchrea—<sup>2</sup>that ye may receive her in the Lord, as doth become saints, and may assist her in whatever matter she may have need of you—for she also became a leader of many, and of myself.

(a) In verse 1 Paul commends or recommends Phoebe so that the church will receive her with respect and honor.

She is a servant or a ministrant. She is a leader with a servant’s heart like Jesus taught we should be!

(b) In verse 2 the word wrongly translated as “helper” is the word ***prostatis*** which is the same word that is used in 1 Tim. 5:17 concerning Elders who rule well and who therefore should be given double honor.

- ii) Phoebe was obviously a strong, powerful leader and minister. Paul instructed the Church in Rome that she was to be afforded honor and assistance when she came from Cenchrea.

She was also entrusted with carrying the precious original manuscript of the Roman Letter from Paul in Corinth to Rome. Some journey in those days!

b) Priscilla and Aquila – a Pastoral Couple

(Acts 18:2, 18, 26; Rom.16:3; 1 Cor.16:19; 2 Tim. 4; 19)

- i) They had a powerful joint ministry together. Priscilla is mentioned first several times when they are in a joint ministering situation, Aquila comes first when the Bible talks about the church in their home (1Cor. 16:19). When it came to teaching Priscilla was probably the more able. When it came to the Church, Aquila was recognized as the father/head of the home and of the Church.
- ii) Ministering couples who understand order today are so powerful. A wife who submits to her godly husband in their marriage. And husband who recognizes his wife's public ministry gifts. They can stand together as leaders in a church... or as this couple lead their own church with proper order and headship.

c) Adronicas and Junia were of note among the Apostles (Romans 16:7).

i) Bible comparisons:

English Standard Version – Romans 16:7 Greet Andronicus and Junia, my kinsmen and my fellow prisoners. They are well known to the apostles, and they were in Christ before me.

Young's Literal Translation – Romans 16:7 salute Andronicus and Junias, my kindred, and my fellow-captives, who are of note among the apostles, who also have been in Christ before me.

- ii) In the original Greek manuscripts the female form Junia is used, not the male form of Junias as some English translations has it. Maybe we have another Apostolic Couple here although nothing indicates these two were married.
- iii) The scriptures say that these two were outstanding among the Apostles. This simply means to me that she and he were outstanding apostles themselves.

Therefore, it must be assumed that Junia was an outstanding Apostle in her own right.

- d) Non-ministering wives of prominent leaders: They should not be put under pressure to be what they are not called to be. They must be allowed to be who they really are. But even if they are not functioning publicly they should be committed to participating in fellowship, in prayer and with the proper attitude to their husband and his ministry calling.
- e) Ministry wives married to Non-ministering men†: These women must function within the boundaries that she and her husband together set for her ministry. He is the head of their one flesh covenant and he must release her, bless her, pray for her and support her in every way. There will always be a tension, (which Paul refers to in 1 Cor. 7:34-40), between serving the Lord and her husband and her family. They must work this out together under his headship

- f) Single women: There were many single and some married women in Paul's apostolic team. In Rom.16:3-16, of the 36 people who were named, 11 were women. Paul called them fellow soldiers, fellow workers, fellow prisoners and they also did mighty exploits.

1 Cor.7:34, 35 advocates celibacy as a gift for certain people so as to serve the Lord without distraction. This is advocated for women as well as for men. If so, there must be full-time ministry and leadership roles for these women.