

➤ **The temple of Artemis in Ephesus**

The Temple of Artemis, located in Ephesus, was considered to be one of the Seven Wonders of the Ancient World.

- **References regarding women teaching and in leadership:** Priscilla (Acts 18:24-26, Romans 16:3-5, 2 Timothy 4:19), Phoebe (Romans 16:1), Junia (Romans 16:7), Huldah (2 Chronicles 34:14-28, 2 Kings 22:8-20), Deborah (Judges 4:4-10, 5:7).
- **“Authority” in 1 Timothy 2:12 (*authentein* in Greek)**

This word is only found here in the whole New Testament. It has the connotation in other literature of “dominate” or “gain the upper hand”. There are a dozen other words for legitimate authority that Paul could have used here.

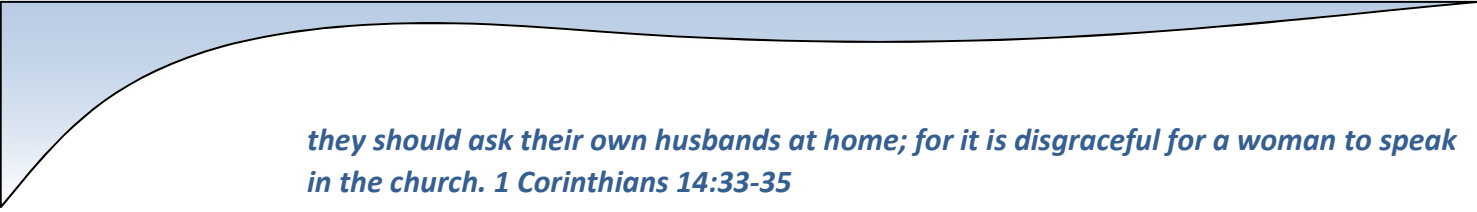
Does the Bible affirm women in leadership?

“In Romans 16...it’s not just that Paul affirms so many women, seven out of these ten, but it’s the way in which he affirms them, which is so remarkable in this culture.” Payne

“We have lots of examples of women prophets. And it wasn’t because there weren’t any men around. But because that was God’s choice.” Haddad

Why does Paul instruct women in the church in Corinth to be silent?

For God is not a God of disorder but of peace—as in all the congregations of the Lord’s people. Women should remain silent in the churches. They are not allowed to speak, but must be in submission, as the law says. If they want to inquire about something,



they should ask their own husbands at home; for it is disgraceful for a woman to speak in the church. 1 Corinthians 14:33-35

“In the Middle East it was, of course in the early church, to be taken for granted, as in many parts of the world still today, that men and women sit on opposite sides in church...The level of the talking would gradually increase until the minister would have to say, ‘will the women please be quiet?’...Paul’s central concern in 1 Corinthians 14 is for order and decency in the church’s worship. And this would fit extremely well. What the passage cannot possibly mean is that women must never speak during the service because in 1 Corinthians 11, they’re doing it.” Wright

“The reason why there is a hierarchal system in some of the churches, is because a lot of times people don’t know that Scriptures are taken out of context.” Mingo

Why does Paul tell the church in Ephesus that women are not to teach or assume authority over men?

A woman should learn in quietness and full submission. I do not permit a woman to teach or to assume authority over a man; she must be quiet. 1 Timothy 2:11-12

“The key to the present passage is to recognize that it is commanding that women too should be allowed to study and learn”

“One of the main things we know about religion in Ephesus is that the main religion, the biggest temple, the most famous shrine was a female-only cult, the temple of Artemis.”

“The word I’ve translated (authority) seems to have the overtones of being bossy or seizing control. Paul is saying women must have the space and leisure to study in their own way. Not in order that they may muscle in and take over the leadership as though this was a new version of the Artemis cult. But, so that men and women alike can develop all the gifts of learning, teaching and leadership that God has given them.” Wright

“We have to have a rational approach to the whole Bible. We don’t simply pick a text out of a context and make it a pretext for our prejudice.” Groothuis

“1 Timothy is a letter that was written to a church struggling with false teaching... And in that situation, Paul is restricting women from assuming authority for themselves to teach a man. But, he is not saying that about a woman who has approval to teach, like Priscilla, who was a recognized approved teacher. She even taught Apollos. It’s OK for her to teach because she wouldn’t be assuming for herself authority. She had that recognized authority...The bottom line is that verse does not prohibit all women from being pastors. It’s prohibiting women in that situation, who were deceived, from assuming authority to teach men.” Payne

Is there a stained glass ceiling?

“There is a need for women to know that they’re fully seen and loved by their Creator. And, that they have been gifted and they should utilize those gifts.” McKirland