

## CONTEMPORARY ISSUES

### **WOMEN PREACHERS or PASTORS**

This is an area in the church which has been affected and infected by the Feminist Movement / Womens Liberation Movement. Their cry is, "We are equal!" There is no question that some women have become very famous and influential in this area, eg Joyce Meyers. People will make the comment, "Are you saying that they are not blessed of God?"

The following are some quotes from prominent people and places:-

1. "Anyone who resists the notion of women preachers is functioning as a tool of the devil," Tony Campolo, founder and president of the Evangelical Association for the Promotion of Education, said during the opening session of the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship's general assembly June 26. A sociologist by training, Campolo said that one of the primary reasons the CBF exists is because "another group" said it would not endorse the idea that women can serve as pastors. He characterised that statement as "about as evil a statement as one can make." "It's one thing to be wrong, but that isn't wrong, that's sinful. The Bible says, "neglect not the gift that is in you," and when women are gifted with the gift of preaching, anybody who frustrates that gift is an instrument of the devil," Campolo said. Campolo encouraged the CBF to continue combating the sexism of those whom he said, "change the Bible to fit their theology."

2. Bill Hybel's Willow Creek Community Church near Chicago years ago decided "after months of study and debate" that it would support women in any position of leadership - teacher, preacher, elder. The church's theological guru and founding elder, Wheaton College professor Gilbert Bilezikian, argues that "secular socialisation regarding sex roles," whereby men are cut out for certain tasks and women for others, has no place in a Christian community 91/13CT0. The church has garnered criticism because it requires that a potential member be able to "joyfully sit under the teaching of women teachers" and "joyfully submit to the leadership of women in various leadership positions at Willow Creek before joining. A female elder said, "...if you can't embrace this teaching, practically speaking, you'd probably be happier at another church."

It is obvious from these quotes and many others which could be given, that

many in the church are completely ignoring the teaching of the Bible on this subject.

## **WHAT DOES GOD'S WORD HAVE TO SAY?**

### **1. Gal 3:28**

There is no question that God's Word teaches equality concerning salvation for male and female. All are saved the same way, by God's grace through faith; repenting and believing that the Lord Jesus died on the cross for our sins, that He was buried, and that He rose from the dead on the third day.

### **2. I Cor 11:1-3**

There is no question that God's Word teaches the headship of man

### **3. I Cor 14:34,35; I Tim 2:11,12**

There is no question that God's Word clearly teaches that women are to be silent in the church and that they are not to "teach, nor to usurp authority over the man"

### **4. I Tim 3:1-5**

There is no question that the office of a bishop is for a man. How can any woman be "the husband of one wife" ?

There is quite clearly equality in salvation for men and women but distinction in their God given roles. There are many roles that women have in God's plan BUT NOT Pastors or Preachers.