

## *Sermon Notes -- Themes from Ephesians*

### “Male Authority in the Church and Related Questions” – Part B Ephesians 5:22-33

#### I. Review.

A. How did we come to study this topic?

B. CEPC’s practice.

C. Last Week.

1. Old Testament observations.

2. New Testament observations.

a. Christ’s attitude toward women.

b. Paul’s remarks

1. I Corinthians 11:2-16

2. Women are positionally equal with men, but functionally subordinate. This emphasis corresponds with the Old Testament.

#### II. Today’s text – I Corinthians 14:26-40.

A. Expository notes.

1. Context determines interpretation.

a. Key section in our study – 14:33-35.

2. Clearly, women were prophesying and sharing in prayer.

a. See also I Corinthians 11:5, 14:5

b. Moses on prophets of both genders – Numbers 11:29.

c. Prophetic fulfillment – Acts 2:16-18, 21:9.

3. What really was wrong at Corinth?

a. Judgment of male prophets by female prophets.

b. Contrary to the created order. – I Corinthians 14:29, 34.

4. Women should be encouraged to use their gifts, but the presence of gifts, even teaching and pastoral gifts, do not indicate a call to the office of Elder.

a. Session composition – Ruling and Teaching elders.

1. Membership called upon to obey and submit  
-- Hebrews 13:17.

#### B. Elder Ruling Power

1. Belgium Confession, 1561.

a. Discipline, the forgotten jewel.

2. Key texts

a. Matthew 16:18-19

1. Gospel key

2. Discipline key

b. Discipline keys in use (Gospel key is self-evident throughout Acts.)

1. I Corinthians 5:1-5

2. II Corinthians 2:8

c. Significance of binding and loosing.

d. John 20:23

#### III. Points for Reflection

A. Men must step up to the responsibility of oversight within the home and the church.

B. The bigger concern is for men to fulfill their responsibility than women who want to be elders.