

A woman with long, wavy brown hair is looking directly at the camera. She has her right index finger pressed against her lips in a universal gesture for silence or secrecy. The background is a textured, light gray wall.

What the Bible Really Says About  
Women Who Preach

THE  
UNSILENCED  
WOMAN

STEPHANIE A. MAYBERRY

The Unsilenced Woman

# The Unsilenced Woman

## What the Bible Really Says About Women Who Preach

Stephanie A. Mayberry

All scriptures used in this text are taken from the  
King James Version Bible

Stephanie A. Mayberry

# The Unsilenced Woman

Copyright © 2024 Stephanie A. Mayberry  
All rights reserved. No part of this book may be reproduced or transmitted in any form or by any means, electronic, mechanical, including photocopying, recording, or by information storage and retrieval system – except by a reviewer who may quote brief passages in a review to be printed in a magazine or newspaper or on a website – without written permission from the author.

Printed in the USA

.

Stephanie A. Mayberry

The Unsilenced Woman

## BOOKS BY STEPHANIE A. MAYBERRY

My Testimony

101 Simple Ways to Minister to Others

7 Steps to a Godly Marriage

Praying God's Word: For Teens and Young Adults

31 Days of Praise for Depression

31 Day Prayer Project for Spiritual Growth

### HEALING FOR THE BATTERED SPIRIT SERIES

My Story is not Unique (a story about domestic  
violence)

Why I Stayed: Ministering to the Battered Spirit

More Valuable than Sparrows: Healing for the  
Battered Spirit

### THE CHRISTIAN ASPIE SERIES

Fringe: My Life as a Spirit-Filled Christian with  
Asperger's Syndrome

More Fringe: My Growth as a Spirit-Filled Christian  
with Asperger's Syndrome

The Christian Aspie: Notes from the Blog

# The Unsilenced Woman

## DEDICATION

I dedicate this book to all my sisters in the Lord who have been held back and stifled under the false teaching that they are not allowed to preach and teach.

It is YOUR time to fulfill YOUR purpose in Yehovah! Walk in your anointing and do what HE has called you to do.

I am praying for every single one of you.

Shalom

**The Unsilenced Woman**

# **Table of Contents**

**The Unsilenced Woman**

**Hell Wants Women Silenced**

**1 Corinthians 14:34-35**

**1 Timothy 2:11-15**

**So, What WAS Paul Saying and What are the  
TRUE Biblical Roles of Women?**

**Women in the Bible Who Preached and  
Ministered (oh the horror!)**

**What Does Scripture Say About Women?**

**Commanded to Preach**

**God Can and Will Use Women in Mighty  
Ways!**

**Sources**

## The Unsilenced Woman

This is going to turn over some apple carts and rock a few boats, but praise the Lord, I'm OK with that. Yehovah God has given me this and it is my responsibility to teach it.

Are women truly silenced in the church? Or has scripture been twisted and perverted to shut women up when in fact they are just as likely to be called to preach and teach as men are?

It's an argument that's been around for a very long time. Let's dig into the Word and get to the truth, shall we?

When I began writing this, I made it a point to avoid all outside resources except for scripture. As I studied, I stuck to scripture only and arrived at my initial conclusion from that study – and that was just reading the verses in context!

I further solidified my position by studying theological papers and academic journals, along with the Strong's Concordance to look at cultural history, specifically the history of the First Century Church.

What I found interesting is that when you remove **religion** from the equation, the majority of these biblical scholars are in support of

## The Unsilenced Woman

women being allowed to preach and teach. They examined the culture of the time, attitudes, and laws and arrived at the same conclusion I did by studying pure scripture.

It seems that **religion** gets in the way and clouds the thinking. And I'm not talking about the Holy Ghost filled people operating in the Spirit or anything like that. I'm talking about people who worship religion.

My husband has an interesting (and very accurate) definition of "religion." He says, "Religion is sitting in the same bar, on the same barstool, drinking the same drink, at the same time every night." And it's true. There is not desire or unction to study to grow. The religious just settle into their traditions and stay right where they are.

That is not what Yehovah intended and that is one of the reasons I wrote this book.

There are a couple of verses in scripture that seem to indicate that a woman should not speak in church. Some folks run with that saying that a woman is not allowed to teach or preach and some go even further to say that a woman cannot be a disciple and certain (some say all) gifts of the spirit are not for a woman.



## The Unsilenced Woman

Hogwash!

First, scripture does NOT support this erroneous way of thinking and the teaching behind it is more definitely NOT of God.

Second, you can't take one verse and build a doctrine around it.

Female Preachers have long been a hotly contested topic, the focus of many heated debates. Want to get a huge argument started on social media? Just post that it is biblical for a woman to preach. People you've never heard of will jump up to debate you, "correct" you, and "teach" you.

Some will even call you fun names like satan, satan's mistress, and Jezebel.

Yes, I've been called those and many more.

Yet here I am, still at it. Why? Because Yehovah put it on my heart to unsilenced women. He has been working on me for several years. At first, I was resistant. I didn't want people arguing with me or being upset with me. And I communicated that with Him.

"Lord," I said. "People are going to *hate* me! It's going to be nothing but controversy and strife. People are going to stop being my friend,

## The Unsilenced Woman

they are going to be mad. It's going to be a mess!"

And Yehovah answered. He said, "There is only one truth. I am the Lord your God, and your only responsibility is to please Me, obey Me. I have given this to you because I know you can do it. I know you WILL do it because you are My good and faithful servant."

And then He started putting things in my spirit that upset people – about many different things regarding His word. They started saying that I pour strong coffee. And over several years, I became comfortable with it. I grew a thick skin. I learned how to handle the ones who opposed me. I learned how to stop arguing and just correct doctrine.

I have a sizeable online presence but I learned to stay on my own page and blog – that is MY domain same as our home and church. I do not allow false teaching or heresy. If someone tries to inject it there, I correct them. I had to come to the understanding that that was MY space. I wouldn't allow someone to come into my home or our church and do those things. My space online is just an extension of that and I have to protect it.

## The Unsilenced Woman

I don't go to others' pages or blogs and correct them unless asked. I gladly answer questions although some who ask don't really want those answers.

That was probably the most difficult thing for me to learn – to keep it mostly in my own space.

The modern church has so much to learn. Modern Christianity as a whole has moved so very far from scripture. The congregation we pastor is bringing people back to what Yeshua/Jesus taught. We teach them how to walk as He walked ([1 John 2:6](#)).

The issue of women preaching has been one of the twisted scriptures for a very long time.

And that is what we are going to look at in the following pages. If you've ever wondered just exactly what the Bible says about women preaching and teaching, it's all laid out here.

It's time we silence hell and put this false teaching away for good.

## **Hell Wants Women Silenced**

Satan wants to take women out of the church and clap a hand over their mouths because he wants them to be considered lower or lesser creatures and incapable of being used by Yehovah God to benefit the body beyond hiding in a prayer closet, cooking for the shut-ins, or taking care of children.

I'm not saying that prayer and other forms of ministry aren't essential to the body – they are!

But God can and does use women for teaching and yes, even preaching. Men don't have a corner on the market when it comes to spiritual gifts – *any* spiritual gifts. Yehovah gives those gifts to whomever HE chooses. That includes women too.

When Yeshua told His disciples to go into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature, when He said that believers will cast out devils and heal the sick ([Mark 16:15-18](#)), he didn't say that only men can do that. He did not indicate a gender.

In fact, the only place where gender is referenced in scripture regarding offices in the body is where the role of elder or bishop is discussed.

## The Unsilenced Woman

[2 Timothy 2:24](#) refers to the servant of the Lord being “apt to teach” - not the male servant, just servant.

[Matthew 28:19-20](#) says to teach, to make disciples, and to baptize. Again, not saying just the guys.

[2 Timothy 4:2](#) says that we all should be ready to preach the gospel.

I could go on and on.

But if that is not enough

[Galatians 3:27-28](#) says that there is no male or female, that we are all one in Yeshua.

Men and women have certain roles WITHIN THE HOME, THE FAMILY. Stepping out of THOSE roles is what leads to all the confused genders and rebellion.

But women's roles in the church have also been corrupted by man which has served to confuse not only the woman's place in the body of Yeshua, but also in her service to Him.

Women can be and are used by God to teach and preach. When you twist scripture and slap your hand over the woman's mouth you are not only promoting a demonic silencing and pressing

## The Unsilenced Woman

down of the woman in the body, you are also limiting God in who He can use.

Stop perverting scripture and stop trying to be God!

Let Him use women the way HE chooses.

Stop trying to do His job for Him. Last time I checked He wasn't looking for a demi-god assistant.

5 Trust in the Lord with all thine heart;  
and lean not unto thine own  
understanding.

6 In all thy ways acknowledge him, and  
he shall direct thy paths.

[Proverbs 3:5-6](#)

Too many people, too many church leaders, are trying to twist scripture to fit some corrupt agenda and take women out of the body denying them the ability to function in a capacity that is demonstrated in scripture over and over and over.

I believe that in many, if not most cases, this stems from a distorted view of women as sensual, sexual creatures. On some level, women are viewed in their sensuality, not their holiness. I blame the media, movies, books,

## The Unsilenced Woman

magazines, and of course the porn industry. It has skewed the way women are viewed and these ideas have become social norms, especially within the church.

You either have Jezebel or you have the Virgin Mary. There really isn't any room in between for women to exist, they have to be one or the other. We need to shut down this perverted view of women and allow God to be God.

He will use whomever He chooses in the way HE wants. And yes, He uses women.

## The Unsilenced Woman

### **1 Corinthians 14:34-35**

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.

35 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.

[1 Corinthians 14:34-35](#)

This is one of “the” verses that people use to justify shutting women up and not allowing them to preach and teach. Problem is, it doesn’t mean what they think it means.

Let’s break it down. They think that it means that in church women should not be allowed to speak, should be “under obedience,” that if they learn anything it should be from their husbands at home, and that it is a shame for a woman to speak in church.

So, I guess if their husbands are not believers then they are just out of luck.

But wait! In [1 Corinthians 7:14](#), it says that the unbelieving husband will be sanctified AND her



## The Unsilenced Woman

children will be made holy – how? Because SHE is a believer.

She must be learning from somewhere. Or is God just whispering in her ear because she can't go to church and learn without a man?

It's ludicrous!

The believing woman is obviously going to church, learning, and (gasp!) asking questions! She is obviously worshipping and learning in a body of believers – and not just women only because according to the current logic they can't learn on their own or teach either.

Paul was not confused. He did not have a momentary lapse in his logic. Obviously, he meant something else in chapter 14.

*Let your women keep silent in the churches*

The key word here is **sigao** ([4601 Strong's](#)), translated from Greek as “silence” which means to keep silent OR *to keep secret, to hold one's peace*.

*for it is not permitted unto them to speak;*

The key word here is **laleo** ([2980 Strong's](#)), translated from Greek as “speak” which means to *chatter or prattle*.

## The Unsilenced Woman

Well, there you go. That gives us a clue about what Paul was dealing with and why he would say what he did.

*but they are commanded to be under obedience as also saith the law.*

The key word here **hupotassó** ([5293 Strong's](#)), translated from Greek as “submit to the Lord” or “under God’s arrangement.”

The last part of this “saith the law” is a reference to Torah, specifically [Genesis 3:16](#) when God said that the husband will have authority over his wife (note that it does NOT say that ALL men have authority over ALL women. That’s nowhere in scripture). In other words, he is responsible for her which we see in [Genesis 3:9](#) when God went to Adam first and asked him why they were hiding.

It is about submitting to Yehovah and obeying Him by submitting to the spiritual authority that He appointed and placed over each of His people. For some it is a husband, others a pastor, children have a father, and so on. It is submitting to Yehovah’s plan, His direction FIRST.

*And if they will learn any thing, let them ask their husbands at home:*

## The Unsilenced Woman

The key word here is **manthanó** ([3129 Strong's](#)), translated from Greek as “learn” but also “to learn by use and practice,” “learn from experience,” and “to be in the habit of, accustomed to.”

They were expected to live the word and practice it in their daily lives. It didn't necessarily mean that her husband was to teach her as if she was in church but to live the word with her in daily life. He is to lead her by example just as Yeshua did for the church.

If women were not supposed to learn (*And if they will learn any thing*) then why were they even allowed in the church?

The word for “let them ask” is the Greek word **eperótaó** ([1905 Strong's](#)). It means “to inquire of,” but is also used for terms including “interrogate” or “demand of.” It can also mean “ask appropriately.”

*for it is a shame for women to speak in the church.*

Two words here.

The first key word is **aischros** ([150 Strong's](#)), translated from Greek as “shameful.” It is also

## The Unsilenced Woman

used for the words “disgraceful,” “base,” and “dishonorable.”

Now, what exactly was “dishonorable”? Was it that women dared speak in church? Or was it something else? That clue is found in the second term we are going to examine.

The second key word is **laλέó** ([2980 Strong's](#)), translated from Greek as “to speak.” However, it is also translated as “chatter” or “prattle.” It is also used to describe sounds that animals make.

If we take all this information and put it together, we see a picture that really has nothing to do with a woman being able to speak in church.

What we see are women who are out of order. They are chattering to each other, probably asking questions and blurting out things. They are disruptive and act in a way that is not reverent or respectful to the other attendees and especially in the church.

Paul is talking about women whose behavior is unbecoming, base, and dishonorable.

If you back up and read the entire chapter of [1 Corinthians 14](#), you see Paul is specifically talking about tongues and interpretations in

## The Unsilenced Woman

church. Apparently, the Corinthians were getting a little out of hand, a little rowdy, during their services and it was more chaos and confusion than Holy Spirit flow. Context is king.

It has nothing to do with silencing women and everything to do with maintaining order in the congregation.

A little digging in history books shows us that this was a common problem. The women were talking out of turn, being disruptive, and calling out to their husbands during the service. Paul was just shutting down disruptive behavior. He was not shutting down women to be used of God.

## The Unsilenced Woman

### **1 Timothy 2:11-15**

11 Let the woman learn in silence with all subjection.

12 But I suffer not a woman to teach, nor to usurp authority over the man, but to be in silence.

13 For Adam was first formed, then Eve.

14 And Adam was not deceived, but the woman being deceived was in the transgression.

15 Notwithstanding she shall be saved in childbearing, if they continue in faith and charity and holiness with sobriety.

[1 Timothy 2:11-15](#)

This is “the other” verse that people use to justify shutting women up and not allowing them to preach and teach. And like 1 Corinthians 14, it doesn’t mean what they think it means.

This portion of scripture is one of the most controversial – and hotly debated – passages in the New Testament. It has undergone a lot of twisting and skewing. What it does is provide instructions regarding a woman’s role in First Century Christian worship.

## The Unsilenced Woman

Like [1 Corinthians 14](#), it is about maintaining order. It too refers to Torah, [Genesis 3:16](#), where God declared that the husband has authority over his wife in that he is responsible for her and she is to submit to his authority. It does NOT mean that she is a slave or to be treated like a child. But the husband is responsible as the head of the family.

There has to be someone at the head but the husband and wife are to work together. He is to love her as Christ loved the church ([Ephesians 5:25-29](#)) – and Christ did not bully or boss around the church. He led with love and service. He led by EXAMPLE.

It should also be noted (again) that ALL men do NOT have authority over ALL women. Women are not lower or lesser than men. The woman's husband has authority over her unless she is not married. Then it is her father or a brother or typically a male family member. If she sits under a pastor, then he has authority over her in that he has some degree of responsibility for her.

We all need a spiritual head here on earth ([Hebrews 13:17](#)). Yes, even the husband must have a spiritual authority over him here on earth. It keeps everyone accountable.

## The Unsilenced Woman

But the woman is NOT to submit to just any man and definitely not to ALL men. That is not biblical.

So, let's break this down. I will take portions out because much of it is self-explanatory or has already been explained here.

*11 Let the woman learn in silence with all subjection.*

The key word here is **manthanó** ([3129 Strong's](#)), translated from Greek as “learn” but also “to learn by use and practice,” “learn from experience,” and “to be in the habit of, accustomed to.”

We're seeing this again, that they are to live the word and it is to be part of their daily lives. They are to learn from experience, from practicing it.

The next key word here is **hésuchia** ([2271 Strong's](#)), translated from Greek as “silence.” However, the translations are not about “silence” but are “stillness” and “calm.”

Also, the word **does not** mean speechlessness or to be quiet. The Greek word for “silence,” “muteness,” or “speechlessness” (either voluntarily or involuntarily) is **siópaó** ([4623](#)



## The Unsilenced Woman

[Strong's](#)) and it is not found in either of the scriptures here.

*12 But I suffer not a woman to teach, nor to usurp authority over the man, but to be in silence.*

There are several key words here.

The first key word is **didaskó** ([1321 Strong's](#)), translated from Greek as “to teach.” However, it also means to “admonish” which means to warn or reprimand.

The next key word is **authentéó** ([831 Strong's](#)), translated from Greek as “usurp authority.” It also means to “domineer,” “govern,” and “have mastery over” in a manner that is **self-appointed**.

The next key word is **anér** ([435 Strong's](#)), translated from Greek as “man.” But it also means “husband.”

Finally, the last key word here is **hésuchia** ([2271 Strong's](#)), translated from Greek as “silence.” That isn’t the common definition though, which is “stillness.” And from what we already know about the Greek word for not speaking is NOT this one. It does NOT mean

## The Unsilenced Woman

speechlessness, but actually means calm and tranquil.

There's a lot more going on here in verse 12 and it has nothing to do with a woman not being allowed to speak in church. Those are not two separate instructions, but one continuous one.

It reads more like I do not allow a woman to admonish (or reprimand) or appoint herself over her husband (which is a violation of [Genesis 3:16](#)) but be still and calm, obedient to scripture.

*13 For Adam was first formed, then Eve.*

This is a reference to Torah, [Genesis 2:18-24](#).

*14 And Adam was not deceived, but the woman being deceived was in the transgression.*

Pointed back to Torah again. This refers to [Genesis 3:1-19](#).

It is also worth noting that in [Genesis 3:17](#) God's first issue with Adam is not that he ate the fruit of the tree, but that he listened to his wife and obeyed her, even when he knew it was wrong.

*15 Notwithstanding she shall be saved in childbearing, if they continue in faith and charity and holiness with sobriety.*

## The Unsilenced Woman

Again back to Torah, [Genesis 3:16](#). Staying in obedience to Yehovah and her place in His order – her husband having authority over her – they will be right with God as long as they both continue in faith, love, holiness, and in exercising self-control.

When we look at this scripture as a whole, it seems that verse 11 is saying a woman must shut up and not speak. When you look at the context of the scripture, it's quite plain that Paul was not saying that at all.

And if you look at these verses in the [Greek Interlinear](#), the translation seems more inline with the context we see in the entire chapters.

Paul was just saying that women should not be flashy or flagrant, frenzied, excessively loud, or talk out of order during a church gathering. They should be reasonable and self-controlled. A woman's behavior should, like her outward appearance ([1 Timothy 2:9](#)), reflect a Godly peace.

So, the question is, how are we to understand this portion of scripture?

In [1 Timothy 3:1–7](#), Paul talks about overseers. Based on the translation, that can mean pastor or elder. In [1 Timothy 3:8–13](#), he talks about the

## The Unsilenced Woman

personal requirements of the overseer and his wife.

But nowhere does he explicitly say that adult women are prohibited from teaching adult men. Also, the indication here is that women can and should pastor alongside their husbands. They are covered by his God given authority.

However, there are some times when her husband is not a believer or won't step up and she takes the helm. It goes back to the husband and wife being "one flesh." Still, she is under some spiritual authority, Yehovah will make sure of it.

Paul did not believe that women should not preach and teach. How do we know? Because of his relationship with husband and wife, Priscilla and Aquila in [Acts 18](#). Paul spent a great deal of time with them and they both went on to teach Apollos ([Acts 18:26](#)).

In his letter to the Romans church, Paul greets them with fondness and affection. You never see him admonishing Priscilla for being out of order. It's because she wasn't. She was called to teach and she did it. She was definitely in Yehovah's order.

## The Unsilenced Woman

In [Romans 16:1](#) we see that Phoebe also served in leadership in the church. The Greek word **diakonos** ([1249 Strong's](#)) is used there and translated to mean “a minister,” “a deacon,” or “a pastor.” However, it is consistently noted in scripture that the primary leadership of elders and bishops are men as we saw in [1 Timothy 3](#).

Nowhere does it say that she exercised authority over the men who were in leadership. But as a pastor or minister, she very likely taught men. And we know that simply because of the position that she held.

It is repeated frequently that women are to be “still” and “quiet” which has more to do with self-control than with not speaking or speechlessness. It was about women not trying to take over the service, take over corporate prayer, or take over when someone else was teaching. Women were not to be frenzied or overly emotional (hysterical or frenetic). They were not to cause an uproar.

They were to be in order.

## **So, What WAS Paul Saying and What are the TRUE Biblical Roles of Women?**

If Paul wasn't trying to clamp his hand over the mouths of women and shut them up, what *was* he doing? What exactly was he saying?

Simply put, he was telling them to maintain order.

There are too many places in the Bible where women preached and taught.

There are too many places in the Bible where God used women in incredible ways.

In the Gospels we see that women were among the earliest followers of Yeshua. Joanna, Mary Magdalene, and Susanna are noted as being alongside the men and among His faithful, accompanying Him during His ministry and using their own private means to **support** it. Scripture shows that women had a vital role in His ministry and there were indeed women disciples of Yeshua.

This means that preaching and teaching are not forbidden when it comes to women.

Paul was saying that women aren't to be disruptive or, for lack of a better word, flaky. That was the problem he was dealing with in

## The Unsilenced Woman

that church in Corinthians. The women were loud, obnoxious, and largely uneducated.

In that church setting, the men sat on one side and the women sat on the other. This was intended to keep them from talking, but the women were prone to calling across the aisle to their husbands. Disruptive and distracting.<sup>1</sup>

In [1 Corinthians 14](#), Paul was admonishing the Corinthians for several things they were doing out of order. When you read it all in context you get a picture of a lot of people doing things their own way and not in order.

Looking at [verse 35](#), Paul says that they should let their husbands teach them at home. OK. So, what about unmarried women? He didn't say anything about them. There's something else going on here.

It all comes down to order and Paul was trying to get everyone back in line.

What he was really saying is that the women had to get their spirits right and stop being so flamboyant. They needed to settle down and become modest and self-controlled. That is what the silence is about - self-control, not lack of sound.

## The Unsilenced Woman

If you back up and read [1 Corinthians 14](#) starting at verse 1, you can see that Paul is talking about speaking in tongues. Read all of First and Second Corinthians to get an even clearer picture. It seems that the Corinthians were in chaos. He is educating them on the appropriate way to handle specifically tongues and interpretations and prophesy.

Those two verses have absolutely nothing to do with women preaching, teaching, praying, or singing. It's about speaking out publicly in a disruptive or distracting manner, chattering, or speaking in tongues out of order in that setting. It is also about the women admonishing their husbands and stepping out of God's order of the marriage and family.

Historians also note that during this time Corinthian women were imitating Greek prophetesses. They were prophesying freely and uncovering their heads. They were flamboyantly exalting themselves. Paul was trying to get them back in line because their behavior was a "shame" for their church, husbands, and community.

His letters were then passed to other churches so they too could identify similar issues going in in



## The Unsilenced Woman

their congregations and take action to correct them.

There were also women in the congregation who were asking their husbands questions and demanding that the men answer them.<sup>1</sup> They were disruptive and out of order, not giving honor to the headship appointed over them by Yehovah.

## **Women in the Bible Who Preached and Ministered (oh the horror!)**

Let's take a look at some of the women in the Bible who did preach and teach or acted in some similar capacity.

### **Phoebe – [Romans 16:1-2](#)**

The King James says that Phoebe was a “servant,” but the Greek word **diakonos** is used which can mean “minister” or even “pastor.” She was not in leadership as the elders are biblically designated as men. Paul asked Phoebe to carry the letter to the Romans church and recommended to them that they allow her to help them.

### **Tabitha – [Acts 9:36](#)**

Scripture refers to Tabitha as a “disciple.” The Greek, the word appears as **mathetria** which is a feminine noun and is translated as “female disciple.”

### **Photini – [John 4:7-30](#)**

Also known as “the woman at the well” or “the Samaritan woman,” historical papers tell us that her name was Photini. After she was forgiven, she went into the

## The Unsilenced Woman

city and preached the gospel, giving her testimony of what Yeshua did for her. Historical documents claim that she evangelized, going from town to town, and was responsible for leading a three-year revival. But it all began with the biblical account of her encounter with Yeshua at the well. Scripture also shows that she preached to her whole town afterward.<sup>2</sup>

### **Deborah – [Judges 4:4-16](#)**

Deborah was a prophetess. She commanded armies of men. She did not usurp any man's authority, they gave her authority to lead them.

### **Tryphena and Tryphosa – [Romans 16:12](#)**

Mentioned by Paul in his letter to the Romans, saying that they “labour in the Lord” meaning that they were active participants in the church.

### **Junia – [Romans 16:7](#)**

Junia and Adronicus are mentioned by Paul in his letter to the Romans. She is

## The Unsilenced Woman

commonly believed to have been an apostle because of Paul's greeting to her.

### **Julia – [Romans 16:15](#)**

Julia, Philologus, Nereus, and his sister, and Olympas were mentioned in Paul's letter to the Romans. He obviously held them in high esteem.

### **Esther – [Book of Esther](#)**

She approached the king unsummoned. She should have been killed, But she wasn't. He listened and submitted to every request she made.

### **Priscilla - [Acts 18:26](#)**

Priscilla taught alongside her husband Aquila. They spent a lot of time with Paul.

### **Hulda – [2 Kings 22:14-20](#) and [2 Chronicles 34:22-28](#)**

Hulda was a prophetess.

### **Mary Magdalene – [Mark 16:9](#)**

Mary Magdalene was the first person Yeshua appeared to when He was resurrected. She was among the women

## The Unsilenced Woman

who first found the empty tomb. She is mentioned in all four gospels.

### **Abigail – [1 Samuel 25](#)**

Abigail's husband Nabal refused to help King David. Abigail recognized this as a sin and realized that her husband was leading her and her family into that sin as well. She called him out on it and took care of the issue herself because she wanted to protect her family and herself from Nabal's sinful folly.

### **Unnamed Prophetess – [Isaiah 8:3](#)**

Throughout scripture, we see women in leadership roles – in both the Old and New Testament. These women were not silenced or told to sit down and don't speak. They were respected and sought out for their wisdom and guidance.

Women had a very important place during biblical times in their service to Yehovah and they have a very important place in their service to Yehovah today. His giftings and callings are for everyone, not just men.

Women are called too.

## **What Does Scripture Say About Women?**

There's actually a lot of scripture that points to the fact that Yehovah can and does use women to preach and teach – and more.

The Bible makes it very clear that both men *and* women are called to the service of Yehovah.

[Galatians 3:27-28](#) says that there is no male or female, that we are all one in Yeshua. Nowhere in these scriptures does Yeshua say they are for men only.

Take a look at the five-fold ministry in [Ephesians 4:11-12](#).

11 And he gave some, apostles; and some, prophets; and some, evangelists; and some, pastors and teachers;

12 For the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ:

Do you see anywhere that it says the five-fold ministry is only for men? Go ahead, look it up, and read the whole chapter. It does not say it is only for me.

That's because women are called too.

## The Unsilenced Woman

To understand [1 Timothy 2:12](#), you have to look at the context. You can't isolate the one verse.

I would start at [verse 9](#). Look at what Paul is talking about - modesty and self-control, not frenzied or loud or flitting around, very scattered at the gathering of a congregation. Not demanding and disrespectful.

Just as he says the woman is to dress modestly and present herself with a modest appearance, he is saying that she should conduct herself in a like manner. Her behavior should reflect the outer appearance of holiness and modesty.

It does not mean that a woman cannot teach. It doesn't mean that a woman cannot teach men.

It says she cannot usurp authority over the man.

Usurp means to take away by force.

Men do not have authority over all women.

Scripture tells us that the woman is to submit to her husband - it also says that her husband is to submit to her. But scripture does tell us that the husband has authority over his wife, that he is responsible for her. That is Yehovah's order – Yehovah, husband, wife, children, everyone else.

## The Unsilenced Woman

The husband's role is to protect his wife and care for her. He is the head of the family and is to lead by serving just as Yeshua did.

He is to love her as Yeshua loved the church.

Yeshua was not controlling, and he did not bind people up but instead set them free.

But when Yeshua gave the command to preach the gospel, He did not specify gender. In [Mark 16:15-18](#) He said “believers” and did not specify a gender.

The spiritual gifts (which include preaching and teaching) are never assigned to a gender. You can't take two of the gifts and say that they aren't for a certain group - but the rest are because scripture does not say that.

At the end of the day, we must use the Word of Yehovah as our guide. We can't insert things we wish were in there or twist verses to fit our own agenda.

Yehovah's word is perfect, and we must obey it. He said if we love Him, we will obey Him. That includes rightly dividing the Word and not using it to squelch people's ministries or prevent them from serving Yehovah in the calling that He has for them.



## The Unsilenced Woman

Some will say that women are to be in supportive roles only like servants or helpers. They refer to [Titus 2:5](#). The problem with that is scripture doesn't support it. Yes, women are supposed to be keepers of the home and they are supposed to help their husbands, but women are called to be so much more!

Lydia sure didn't fall into that role, and neither did many of the women throughout scripture. The woman at the well was fulfilling that role, albeit not in a biblical sense because she was living with a man she wasn't married to. But once Yeshua touched her, she became an evangelist. She was anointed to evangelize and teach the gospel.<sup>3</sup>

Should there be male authority? Of course, the Bible says there should be. But the Bible also says that we are all called to preach and teach. We are all called to preach the gospel. [1 Peter 2:9](#) says that we are a royal priesthood. It doesn't say just the men. It's for everyone.

In that letter, Peter is addressing persecuted Christians, who were from Asia Minor. He is telling them to preach even though they are persecuted – just as Yeshua was. He doesn't specify men or women. He is talking to both.<sup>4</sup>

## The Unsilenced Woman

What women are not allowed to do is usurp the authority of the man who is above her.

Let's look at [Matthew 28:19](#), the “big one” that churches use to encourage people to share the gospel and “win souls.” Go ahead, read the verses before and after it.

19 Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost:

I see Nowhere in this commission that it was given to men only, do you?

## **Commanded to Preach**

28 And it shall come to pass afterward, that I will pour out my spirit upon all flesh; and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, your old men shall dream dreams, your young men shall see visions:

[Joel 2:28](#)

Well, that certainly includes everyone. And if we go to [Galatians 3:28](#) we see that there is no Jew or Greek, slave or free man, no male or female, we are all one in Yeshua.

We are all one, and we are **all** called to His service.

39 And we are witnesses of all things which he did both in the land of the Jews, and in Jerusalem; whom they slew and hanged on a tree:

40 Him God raised up the third day, and shewed him openly;

41 Not to all the people, but unto witnesses chosen before God, even to us, who did eat and drink with him after he rose from the dead.

42 And he commanded us to preach unto the people, and to testify that it is he which was ordained of God to be the Judge of quick and

## The Unsilenced Woman

dead.

[Acts 10:39–42](#)

He commanded us to preach.

Now most people think of that as the teaching that a pastor does in a church service. And that is preaching, for sure. But they usually think of a man preaching and that is where it goes a little sideways.

Women can preach from that pulpit as well.

Women can teach both men and women.

But teaching an individual or small group is also preaching.

Not everyone is called to pastor a congregation or preach full-time, but we are all called to share the gospel. That means we all preach a little at some point. That isn't the same as being called to preach or having an anointing to preach. [Acts 5:42](#) says that they “ceased not” to teach and preach Yeshua in every house and daily in the temple.

So, there is the call, the gifting, the anointing of preaching and there is preaching as part of our service to Yehovah. You may not be called to preach every week, but you are called to preach in His time and His appointments.

## The Unsilenced Woman

Before Yeshua returned to Heaven, He gave the command for all believers, His followers, to preach to every nation. It's included in all four gospels as well as in Acts – and it is demonstrated throughout scripture over and over. It is considered one of the most important jobs of the church because it is about reaching the lost.

But we should be taking it seriously too, and if someone is saying that women can't preach or teach, they are stopping them from following a command of Yeshua – one considered to be of the utmost importance.

[1 Thessalonians 5:19](#) tells us to quench not the spirit. That refers to not stopping the Holy Spirit in ourselves as well as in others. If Yehovah's spirit is guiding someone to teach or preach, no one has the right or authority to tell them they cannot. If they do, they are in sin.

But know that the Holy Spirit will **not** cause a person to act out of order or do something inappropriate. Everything led by Yehovah's spirit is in **perfect** order. That's one good way to know who you are hearing from!

So, what is preaching?

## The Unsilenced Woman

It is a verb meaning to deliver a religious address or sermon to a person or group of people, often assembled in a church or church setting.

Preaching can also be called giving a sermon, spreading the gospel, evangelizing, publicly proclaiming the word, and teaching (but not all teaching is preaching).

Lydia, Priscilla, Deborah, Phoebe, and many other women in scripture were never stoned for preaching, teaching, and prophesying. Many worked under the authority of Paul, Peter, or their husbands. The point is though, they were not reprimanded. They were treated with respect.

If they were doing something wrong, don't you think Paul or Peter or other men would have called them out on it?

Of course they would! But they didn't.

## The Unsilenced Woman

### **God Can and Will Use Women in Mighty Ways!**

There is a reason we are told to study to show ourselves approved ([2 Timothy 2:15](#)). Hell has been against us from the beginning.

Who did satan go after first? The woman.

It wasn't because she was weak. It wasn't because she was gullible. It was because he knew that she had a presence, a place, a position in the garden and if he took her down he could take them both – two for one.

He could have just as easily approached the man, but he didn't.

Adam followed her and took of the fruit with her because he loved her.

She had a moment of weakness but she had power in her relationship with Adam and satan knew that.

Women subscribe to the ethics of care. We tend to be community-oriented and relationship-oriented. We seek to bridge gaps and bring people together. It is in our spiritual DNA. Things may happen that cause us to deny it or reject it, but it is a God-given characteristic, part of the female design.

## The Unsilenced Woman

Often when people talk about a woman they will say things like, “She was the glue that held this family together” or “she brought unity to this body.” That’s because women are relationship-oriented. It’s what we do. And many of us do operate in that capacity within the body. But Yehovah will call women to preach and we have to be sensitive to His spirit and His call. We have to know our shepherd’s voice.

If He calls you to preach, don’t count it out just because someone told you that women can’t preach. That’s a lie from hell.

Instead, pray for Yehovah to open doors for you, to lead you to where you are supposed to be. Pray for Him to manifest that gifting in you and put the words in your mouth. Be diligent and faithful to Him and He will be faithful and diligent to you.

The opportunities will come.

Yehovah won’t put a calling in you that He isn’t going to fulfill. All He wants is your obedience.

There are many women in various places whom Yehovah has raised up to teach the gospel, including times when men were not available or refused to heed the calling.



## The Unsilenced Woman

It's time to turn this erroneous thinking around and get those hands off of women's mouths. Yehovah can call anyone at any time to do anything – including calling women to preach.

When a woman is given the authority to preach and teach, she isn't usurping it. But she is not to be submitted to all men, only her husband or other male spiritual authority such as a father or pastor. Still, she has the responsibility to act on her calling.

No one has the right to stop a person, any person, from fulfilling the calling that Yehovah has on their lives. We must always be careful that we don't put ourselves above Yehovah like the rabbis and Pharisees.

To say that Yehovah will not use women or cannot use women in the body to preach, teach, and prophesy is a grievous perversion of scripture. It is heresy. It is a doctrine of devils.

When Yehovah formed Eve in [Genesis 2:18](#) and gave her to Adam, he called her a "helper." He did not say she was a slave or someone beneath him, but a partner, someone to stand by his side. She was not inferior to him or beneath him. She was beside him.

## The Unsilenced Woman

And she was so valuable and precious as his helper and partner, he was responsible for her and took charge over her to protect and love her.

None of this is an attempt to remove the biblical authority that a man has as the head of a body of believers and certainly not as the head in a marriage. But failing to understand or accept that value and anointing that Yehovah specifically designed for women, the roles He chose for them which do indeed include preaching and teaching, actually undermines the man's ability to walk fully in the purpose that Yehovah has for him.

If you are violating scripture and holding someone else back, you are holding yourself back as well. Disobedience is a sin. Causing someone to stumble is a sin. Preventing someone from fulfilling their purpose in Yehovah is a sin.

When we are baptized in the name of Yeshua, we are given the authority of Yeshua. We walk in that authority and fulfill His purpose for our lives. We abide in Him so we walk in His ways ([1 John 2:6](#)).

It's time to unsilence the woman.

## The Unsilenced Woman

### Sources

1 Davenport, Charles. (2023, April). [Women in Silence: Paul's Words about Disruptive Women in Church Gatherings](#). *Pepperdine University*.  
Pages 4 & 6-7

2 Hunt, Laura J. (2023, September 8). [Samaritan Israelites and Jews under the Shadow of Rome: Reading John 4:4-45 in Ephesus](#). *Religions*.  
(Pages 2 & 5)

3 Lockyer, Herbert. (1967). [All the Women of the Bible: The Life and times of All the Women of the Bible](#).

4 Britannica, T. Editors of Encyclopaedia (2020, August 21). [Letters of Peter](#). *Encyclopedia Britannica*.

[Strongs Exhaustive Concordance of the Bible](#)

## ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Stephanie A. Mayberry is an author and freelance writer. As a pastor's wife, she serves alongside her husband who is pastor of Torah Observant Apostolics, in Baton Rouge, Louisiana. They are both ordained through Covenant Apostolic Congregations International (CACI).

She writes primarily for adult and young adult audiences in addition to teaching Bible studies and preaching and teaching to various groups. She also creates children's Bible lessons and activities that she makes available for free via Sabbath Kids, the children's ministry for Torah Observant Apostolics.

Stephanie is involved in several ministries, including spiritual warfare and deliverance, healing from trauma, and ministering to adults and families on the autism spectrum (through her blog, The Christian Aspie, and several books she has written about being a believer with Asperger's Syndrome). However, she is particularly focused on supporting and encouraging women in ministry.

Stephanie uses her personal experiences with domestic violence to minister to people who have been through abuse and help them find healing through Yeshua.

[www.StephanieMayberry.com](http://www.StephanieMayberry.com)

The Unsilenced Woman

## **CONNECT WITH STEPHANIE A. MAYBERRY**

[Amazon.com/author/stephaniemayberry](https://Amazon.com/author/stephaniemayberry)

[Smashwords.com/profile/view/StephanieMayberry](https://Smashwords.com/profile/view/StephanieMayberry)

Email: [Stephanie@StephanieMayberry.com](mailto:Stephanie@StephanieMayberry.com)

Facebook: [Facebook.com/Stephanie.A.Mayberry](https://Facebook.com/Stephanie.A.Mayberry)

[TorahObservantApostolic.org/](https://TorahObservantApostolic.org/)

[TorahObservantApostolic.org/Sabbath-Kids-of-](https://TorahObservantApostolic.org/Sabbath-Kids-of-TOA/)

[TOA/](https://TOA/)

[TheFireEscape.org](https://TheFireEscape.org)

[ALifeOfHoliness.com/](https://ALifeOfHoliness.com/)

### **Like Stephanie's Facebook Author Page**

[Facebook.com/authorstephaniemayberry](https://Facebook.com/authorstephaniemayberry)

### **Did You Love The Unsilenced Woman?**

Please leave a review on Goodreads!

[Goodreads.com/book/show/206231146-The-](https://Goodreads.com/book/show/206231146-The-Unsilenced-Woman)

[Unsilenced-Woman](https://Goodreads.com/book/show/206231146-The-Unsilenced-Woman)

## **Join the Conversation**

[Facebook.com/groups/TheUnsilencedWoman](https://Facebook.com/groups/TheUnsilencedWoman)