

“I Permit Not A Woman...”

“I have just finished reading the fourteenth chapter of ‘I PERMIT NOT A WOMAN ... TO REMAIN SHACKLED,’ and I could wait no longer to send an e-mail saying how thrilled I am to have read it.

“I always felt ‘we’ were missing some key information when teaching about women being in subjection to men, but I didn’t know what it was! Now I do, thanks to this wonderful book. Will you please tell me how to buy it? I want to look up every verse quoted, and revel in my new feeling that God does not rebuke me for wanting to share my understanding, though men likely will.

“I have felt like a child, ducking from an anticipated blow, every time I have spoken in an assembly of the family, even in ladies-only classes (where our ‘traditions’ are guarded by Elders’ and Deacons’ wives).

“Again, please let me know how to buy the book, and perhaps how to e-mail the author. Thank you very much.” - Susie Prater <Sprater@webtv.net>.

Many other Christian women have experienced the same spiritual delight after reading this book by Robert Rowland. No doubt, there are many other sincere sisters who would like to know that feeling and confidence. Some fear to study anything that might question our traditional stance on the role of Christian women. Others may know of no source of material that is clear and understandable. Still others have been subdued in spirit so long that they have bowed to repression without resistance. They fear being branded as “women-libbers” or being accused of proudly grasping for power, so they continue to serve in restricted manner shackled by our misinformed traditions.

This informative book by Bob Rowland is not written to the scholars of the campus but to the good people who occupy the pews of our assemblies. He uses clear language that does not bog you down in technicalities. Some language, especially in older versions of the Scriptures, has been poorly translated. He does deal with definition of these terms but in a manner easily understood. These clarifications offer surprising enlightenment.

A unique feature of the book of 165 pages is Chapter 2, “Self-Examination.” In twenty pages of questions, Bob asks you to answer “yes” or “no” to the many facets of the subject. He causes the reader to see for himself/herself that we have been inexcusably inconsistent in our traditional specification of what women may and may not do in congregational activity. Then he leads in a candid restudy of what the Scriptures reveal that a woman may or may not do.

Most of us have been able to point to Paul’s words, “Let a woman learn in silence with all submissiveness. I permit no woman to teach or to have authority over men; she is to

keep silent” (1 Tim. 2:11-12). From that point on, our reasoning has been mostly based upon limiting negatives. But when one looks deeper than our few familiar prooftexts and considers all that Paul and others wrote about women, we are able to see a very positive role God designed for women whom he has gifted and endowed.

In view of our entrenched traditions, I suppose it is asking too much to propose that your elders study this book together or that it be used as a guide in a class in the congregation. But for ladies who would like to share the confident joy expressed by Susie Prater in her letter, I urge you to read and study it as she is doing. Then, being thrilled by your discoveries, you, too, will want to share this good news.

You may order the book from me for \$9.95. To help with mailing, please add \$1.50 on orders under \$30.00. Or you may order from Robert Rowland, 3619 Larchwood Drive, Corona, CA 92881-8784; 1-909-898-1947.

Bob’s heart is deeply involved in his message. If you are a student in one of our universities or schools of preaching and will request it, Bob will send you a free copy of his book. With it will also be a free copy of my first book, “Free In Christ.” Now, that’s a bargain for you who may yearn for liberation from our oppressive traditions or for you who just want to broaden your understanding.

We have quenched the Spirit for generations in suppressing the powerful influence of our dedicated women. Nothing but good can result from an honest and intelligent restudy of this matter. Act now! Time and talent are wasting! (Cecil Hook, April 2001) []