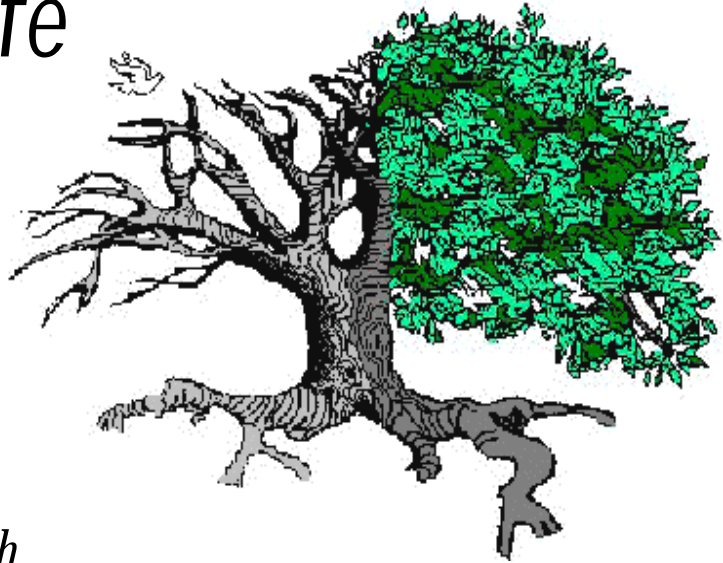


Freedom Life

Centre

News



*A Ministry Arm of
Rangeville Uniting Church
Toowoomba, Australia*

*"...to proclaim freedom for the
captives..." (Isaiah 61:1-3)*

From Dulcie's Desk

As this is our first newsletter for 2003 we send greetings to all our readers. We thank those who keep our ministry in prayer and we also thank those who support our ministry financially.

I was very interested to read Col's contribution to our newsletter, because this subject was a concern for me. I am a lay preacher and take services in different Uniting churches around Toowoomba and district.

My becoming a lay preacher, I know, came from God. When the thought 'popped' into my head to do the lay preachers course I immediately made sure it 'popped' out again. However, it didn't matter how much I tried to put it out of my head the words continually bombarded my mind. "Do the lay preachers course." Eventually I was obedient and in 1997 finished the course.

Where Paul writes in 1 Timothy 2:12 saying "*I do not permit a women to teach or to have authority over a man; she must be silent.*" was a concern for me. I couldn't say, well that's just Paul's idea and

leave it at that, because in 2 Timothy 3:16 he says "*All scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, so that the man of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work.*"

Also, as Col comments, I have taken verses out of context and dwelt only on that verse. At one of the Churches where I was taking a service I was actually asked what were my thoughts on the verse from Timothy about women teaching. My comment had to be that I was certain God has led me along this path to become a lay preacher and He has given me the gifts and skills to be able to carry out this ministry.

Prayer Points

- * Seminars for this year
- * Our volunteer ministry teams
- * Arrangements being made by Churches for a seminar
- * Safe travel to all seminars
- * That we will know God's will for overseas seminars.

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Seminar Reports

In February 2003, Freedom Life Centre people asked would I join Col and Susan; (Rev. Dr. Colin Warren and Mrs. Susan Newell) as part of the team for the Deliverance Seminar hosted by Victory Baptist Church, Newcastle. I have twice hosted Col's ministry, while living in North West Queensland and observed the before and after affects on those attending. God was giving me an opportunity to be obedient to Mark 16:17, what a privilege.

There is something wonderful about witnessing God at work in power amongst people just like myself and using people just like me to do His work of setting the captives free. The release during corporate breaking of curses and in personal ministry is exciting and inspirational and gave me another boost of faith and a grateful heart to God. Deliverance ministry is also very much a demonstration of God's grace and faithfulness as our dependency and faith on Holy Spirit's work was rewarded with tangible evidence. A "quick work of the Lord" in prayer ministry due to time constraints was all part of this new experience for me where I was blessed by seeing others helped and encouraged in very personal, specific SUPERNATURAL ways. Also given personal insights into areas in my own life needing God's healing touch. How good is that !!!! - You will know when you try this gentle ministry for yourself - never let fear hold you back from all God has for you. Thanks to our wonderful hosts, Geoff and Pam, whose love and hospitality were excellent, (Pam is the best cook) they made us so welcome as did the whole body of Christ at Victory. Our times of fellowship there were precious. It is good to see so many hungry for more of our Lord and His glory. We attended Sunday morning service with our new friends at Victory. To F.L.C. workers thanks for allowing me to be part of the happy bunch of Christians; to Col and Susan a huge thank you for mentoring me, encouraging me and such fun to be with even when weary. Almost enough to make one want to go again.

Guinea Netterfield, Rangeville U.C. Toowoomba

From Dr Warren's Pen

WOMEN IN LEADERSHIP RIGHT OR WRONG?

I have been asked to write on this topic which has provided difficulty for many who study God's word and in the space available in our News Sheet will bring you some thoughts from passages often referred to.

I have not gone into the various arguments from the Original Greek with you, because firstly, much of that I would have to do through Commentaries, as I do not consider myself a proficient Greek scholar, and secondly, I think you would much rather have me respond with the Scriptures by my side.

Timothy 2:11-12

If you are going to take 11 and 12 literally, you must also take verses 1-3 literally. How many of us offer petitions, prayers and requests for all people. For kings and all others in authority. **"This is good and proper conduct,"** Paul

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says, but who is doing it? He goes on to say that God wants everyone to be saved and to know the truth. Is everyone saved? Does everyone know the truth? He says, **"I want the men to pray, men who are dedicated to God and can lift up their hands in prayer."**

How many men in the church can lift up their hands in prayer? How many women in the church are upholding what this passage says about women? (V.9) How many women are dressing in this way? Are they doing this in the church that holds such strict views concerning women in leadership? We can't take one part of the passage and ignore the other. There must be consistency. Tragically many women are put down by men and I am constantly having to minister to them in their broken state.

Paul in this passage is speaking of an ideal situation. Unfortunately we are living in a fallen world, where men are not accepting their God given role of spiritual headship and some women out of their love for Christ, have had to take the role God gave to men for the sake of the salvation of their children and the world.

1 Timothy 5:21-22

I believe it is right that these instructions should be carried out. Paul says through Timothy, **"Keep yourself pure. This is precisely what Jesus said in Matt.5:48. "You must be perfect just as your Father in heaven is perfect."** John says the same in 1 John 3:1-10. In verse 6 he says, **"Everyone who lives in union with Christ does not continue to sin."** (that is, deliberately and wilfully when aware that it is sin). **"But whoever continues to sin has never seen him or known him"**.

This clearly is biblical teaching to which we can attain, but how many of us really even try to be in this place. Read on to the end of verse ten and you will be amazed at the holy life God requires of each person

1 Cor. 14:33-37

Where this relates to women, it is in the context of the second part of verse 34 which says, **"They are not allowed to speak; as the Jewish law says, they must not be in charge."** Paul is speaking to Jews whose law at that time forbade women from speaking. V. 37 **"If anyone supposes he is God's messenger or has a spiritual gift, he must realise that what I am writing to you is the Lord's command."**

Here Paul is referring to order in the church in relation to gifts of the Spirit. This must be read in its whole context which is

from V 26-39. The church at that time had much of the Jewish law from the Old Testament which was to change as they understood the precedence of God's grace over law. He who lives by the law will die under the law. Paul points out in Romans 2-3 that God's judgment on all people relates to the circumcision of the heart. That is what determines whether we are of the chosen race, not whether we have had a physical circumcision which was required of all Jewish males

In other words, not the written law, but the law of love which is no law. This is what God requires of all Christians. The written Jewish law required women to be in the position Paul describes. However there is no question that God has placed men in the position of being the spiritual head of the home and the church. But when men have opted out of their responsibility, should women then sit back and allow their children to go to hell because men have not fulfilled what God requires of them? The answer is a definite no!

Titus 2:1-5

Clearly, here Paul is speaking to Christians and the behaviour required of Christians. Titus is to teach them well. First he has to teach the older men to be sober, sensible and controlled, to be sound in their faith, love and endurance. Then he is to teach the older women to live a holy life and not be slanderers or slaves to wine. They must teach what is good. Why? The result of this teaching is that the expectation of the younger women is that they are to be self controlled and pure, to be good house wives who submit to their husbands. This submission is dependent on the teaching of both men and women having been lived out. There is no problem then for a woman to come under the spiritual authority of her husband. But to come under that authority if he is a drunkard, womaniser, cruel tyrant etc means she subjects herself and her children to a living death that brings inevitable destruction to the whole family.

If it had not been for the Christian stand of many women in our society who have had to live under these circumstances, there would be far more destroyed families.

Ephesians 5:22-24

It is interesting that those who wish to push the dominant authority of the male, take this passage out of context and leave out verse twenty one, which says, when speaking about husbands and wives, **"Submit yourselves to one another."** That is, Husbands have to submit to wives, wives are to submit to husbands. Where there is this mutual submission, Paul says, it is showing reverence for Christ.

Verse 23 points out, **"A husband has authority over his wife, just as Christ has authority over the Church."** How did Christ show this authority over the Church? by dying for the Church. A Man can only have authority over his wife if he is prepared to die for her. When that is so, yes, a woman is to submit to her husband. But then it is not a situation of domination and control, but of love and willingness to suffer for her if necessary. God requires men to have a headship of servanthood. This is exactly what Jesus had for the Church. There is no other headship of men over women in the teaching of Scripture, unless it is taken out of context.

1 Peter 3:1-12

Again the reference to submission and reverence in verse one has to be kept in the context of the whole passage; where husbands have to treat their wives with the recognition that they are the weaker sex. That is, they need the man's protection because of their lesser physical strength and sexual vulnerability. Unless this is carried out, Peter points out that our prayers are hindered. The responsibility is always two way.

1 Cor. 11:3

Man's head is Christ, woman's head is man in the sense that I have already shared with you. It is a headship of servanthood. Don't forget that Christ's headship was one of servanthood. Man's headship of a woman must be the same as that of Christ if he is going to claim his God given role of protector and head of a woman. Notice here that Paul says in verse five, **"Any woman who prays or proclaims God's message with nothing on her head disgraces her husband."**

Earlier I spoke of the Jewish law forbidding a woman to publicly speak. Here Paul is acknowledging that Christian women clearly are giving God's message in public worship. However they should observe the custom of the day and he gives the reason for that custom.

Genesis 3:16

Because of the sin of both Adam and Eve, a curse was placed on both of them. This has been passed on to the whole human race. **"The sins of the fathers are visited upon the children unto the third and fourth generation."** (again note this does not literally mean only to the fourth generation, but rather it is passed on indefinitely. All people are born with original sin, the consequences of the disobedience of our first parents. This means that God's curse on them has come upon all people).

In Eve's case, part of that curse was that she would have desire for her husband, but must come under his authority. It is important to notice that in our times of ministry, God allows us to stand in the gap on behalf of our first parents, confess the sin of rebellion against God and break the curse of Eve over women who are having serious menstrual and child birth problems.

Colossians 3:18

Submission is undoubtedly what is required, but don't forget it is two way submission as I explained earlier from Ephesians 5:21. I have found that there is no problem with a woman submitting to her husband (except in some cases where there has been abuse in childhood or growing years. This then requires emotional healing.) However when there has been no submission by the husband to Christ, tragic consequences can ensue.

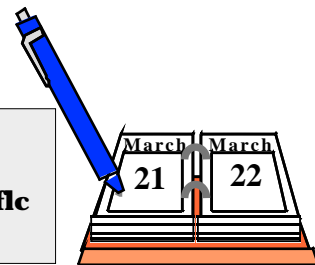
What then of widows, single women and divorcees? Whilst children, they come under the protective headship of their parents. When adults, they are to choose to come under the spiritual headship of the person of their choice.

Much more could be said, but I submit this for your



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Dates for your Diary

If you are interested in hosting a seminar or having Freedom Life Centre visit in your area, please do not hesitate to contact us.

<p>21st - 23rd March 2003 Sunnybank U.C. Q'ld Prayer: Rev. Col Warren Contact Tricia Tschernez Ph. (07) 3273 4433</p>	<p>Prayer: Rev. Col Warren Contact: Margaret Wilson Ph. (07) 4668 6747</p>	<p>Ph. (02) 6663 3327</p>
<p>4th - 6th April 2003 Murgon U.C. Q'ld Prayer: Rev. Col Warren Contact: Rev. Harold Strong Ph. (07) 4168 1744</p>	<p>10th May 2003 Inala U.C. Q'ld Day of Prayer: Dulcie Andrew Contact: Betty O'Farrell Ph. (07) 3372 5953</p>	<p>16th - 18th May 2003 Moree U.C. N.S.W. Prayer: Rev. Col Warren Contact: Fiona Wilson Ph. (02) 6752 7860</p>
<p>11th - 13th April 2003 Chinchilla U.C.</p>	<p>9th - 11th May 2003 St. Marks Ang. Church, Casino Prayer: Rev. Col Warren Contact: Elsa Barrett</p>	<p>20th - 22nd June 2003 Crystal Brook U.C. S.Aust. The missing factor in evangelism - Deliverance: Rev. Col Warren Contact: Rosemary Humphris Ph. (08) 8636 2783</p>

consideration and would be happy to go into the matter further with you if you have the time and feel I have not adequately answered your concerns.

With prayerful best wishes,
 Colin Warren.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

This is a very early advice notice about a week of teaching we have organised for 11th - 15th October **2004** to be held at the Rangeville Uniting Church in Toowoomba. These teaching sessions will be led by international and

interstate speakers and some of the subjects to be covered will be leadership and releasing God's power.

The sessions will commence at 1pm on Monday 11th October and the day sessions will be for people who register for all or part of the teaching and the evening sessions will be open to anyone.

Advertising for this week will be sent Australia wide. As plans are in progress for the building of our new church we are hoping the building will be completed for us to hold our seminar there and if so, we will not have to limit numbers. We will keep you updated in future newsletters.



Wish to Donate?

If you would like to support Freedom Life Centre financially you may do so in the following ways:

- o One off donation \$_____ (EITHER send a cheque with this form to the FLC address above OR visit any Westpac branch and make your payment into the following account: — BSB # 034221, Account # 123165, Account Name: Freedom Life Centre)
- o Regular periodic deposits to the FLC account can be made from your own bank to:— Uniting Church Investment Service, BSB#: 704919, Account#: 100002427, Account Name: Rangeville Uniting Church - Freedom Life Centre

Changed Address Recently?

If you have changed your address or the address we have for you is not correct and you would still like to be on our mailing list, could you please take a little time to update us.

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