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## **Biblical Watershed Issues: Who Teaches the Believer? #5**

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*The Bible gives commands and parameters to different groups to teach believers.*

**1. PASTORS Teach Believers** – Pastors are given to equip the *saints* (Eph 4:12) – all believers, not just the men or the adults. This would include teaching men, women, and children (not exclusively – pastors teach children, but so do their parents & others). Pastors are appointed by God to oversee *local* assemblies and are required to be men.

**2. BELIEVERS Teach One Another** – We are all to teach and admonish one another. This is not limited to the men or adults. In light of James 3:1, this pertains primarily to passing on what we have been taught by our pastors.

**Col 3:16** Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom, **teaching and admonishing one another** in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with grace in your hearts to the Lord.

- *Compared with James 3:1, this seems to relate to repetitive teaching, repeating what one has been taught.*

**Heb 5:12 – 6:2** For though by this time **you ought to be teachers**, you need [someone] to teach you again the first principles of the oracles of God; and you have come to need milk and not solid food.

- *This pertains to each and every believer. Each is expected to learn, understand, and be able to repeat the first principles of the Christian faith.*

**With this category of teaching:**

- There is **no specific qualifications or skills.***
- There is also **no formal appointment.***
- There is **no elevated accountability.***
- This implies only **informal teaching** while interacting with one another*
- The content concerns learning and passing on (six) **basic truths.***

**3. THOSE GIFTED WITH THE GIFT OF TEACHING Teach Believers** – These are some (a few?) that are given the spiritual gift of teaching. If this giftedness is not limited to pastors, all restrictions must still be identified and observed (1 Cor 14:34; 1 Tim 1:3-7; 2:11-14; James 3:1).

**1 Cor 12:28** And God has appointed these in the church: first apostles, second prophets, third **teachers**, after that miracles, then gifts of healings, helps, administrations, varieties of tongues. (cf. 1 Pet 4:10-11)

- *As it parallels Eph 4:11 listing apostles & prophets, “teachers” seems to relate to the position of pastor-teacher, and thus limited to men.*

**Rom 12:6-7** Having then gifts differing according to the grace that is given to us, [let us use them:] ... he who **teaches**, in teaching;

- *There are some that are specifically enabled by the Spirit with special teaching ability. This teaching gift is not limited to authoritative teaching. One can use his or her ability to research, organize, relay, and communicate what he or she has been taught.*

**4. OLDER WOMEN Teach Younger Women** – This single passage seems to suggest informal woman to woman instruction, and deals specifically with key areas of *womanly conduct* and *attitudes* regarding womanly roles and responsibilities. Older, experienced godly women are to be teaching younger wives and mothers (any young women) about marriage and womanhood.

**Titus 2:3-5** the older women likewise, that they be reverent in behavior, not slanderers, not given to much wine, teachers of good things -- that they admonish the young women to love their husbands, to love their children, to be discreet, chaste, homemakers, good, obedient to their own husbands, that the word of God may not be blasphemed.

**Observations of This Assignment:**

- GENERAL:** All older women teaching younger women.*
- GENDER-SPECIFIC:** Only woman-to-woman (cf. 1 Tim 2:11-15)*
- GENERATIONAL:** Older women teaching younger women.*
- GUIDED:** What is taught are specific, gender-role related topics.*

**5. HUSBANDS Teach WIVES** – This passage seems to primarily relate to applying the Word to the situations of daily life. i.e. Leading biblically by actively using the Word of God in day-to-day life.

**Eph 5:25-27** Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ also loved the church and gave Himself for her, that He might sanctify and cleanse her with the washing of water by the word, that He might present her to Himself a glorious church, not having spot or wrinkle or any such thing, but that she should be holy and without blemish.

- *The \_\_\_\_\_: “Word” translates **rhema** (spoken word, applied word), as opposed to **logos** (message).*
- *The \_\_\_\_\_: Sanctifying and cleansing [by means applying the Word of God].*
- *The \_\_\_\_\_: Just as Christ also loved the church and gave Himself for her.*

**1 Cor 14:34-37** Let your women keep silent in the churches, for they are not permitted to speak; but *they are* to be submissive, as the law also says. <sup>35</sup> And if they want to learn something, let them ask their own husbands at home; for it is shameful for women to speak in church. <sup>36</sup> Or did the word of God come *originally* from you? Or *was it* you only that it reached? <sup>37</sup> If anyone thinks himself to be a prophet or spiritual, let him acknowledge that the things which I write to you are the commandments of the Lord.

- *The \_\_\_\_\_: Listening prompts questions (and should) by all.*
- *The \_\_\_\_\_: Men are listening, learning, and leading their homes!*
- *The \_\_\_\_\_: Women are participating by enabling their husbands through asking and following.*