



Truth Matters... So Honor Women in Truth and Love!

Lesson 5 • Romans 16:1-2; 2John 7-11; 3John 5-8

Why Take Time to Learn How to Honor Women in Truth and Love?

- 1) The **CONFUSION** in our culture over gender identity, gender equality, and gender hostility.
- 2) The **VALUE** of women to the cause of Christ in church history, in missions in particular, and in our church.
- 3) The **RELEVANCE** of honoring women to our current series. 2John 7-11; 3John 5-8

Honoring Women in Truth and Love!

What Do We Learn About Phoebe as a Woman?

1. She was a **SISTER** in Christ and the Church.

*"I commend to you our **sister** Phoebe..." Romans 16:1*

- Paul affirms her **GENDER**—*she is a woman and in Christ she is his sister and a sister to the believers in Rome!*
- Paul affirms her **EQUALITY** as a sister in Christ and in the church.
 - 1) Equality in being **SAVED** in Christ! *Galatians 3:28*
 - 2) Equality in being a **MEMBER** of God's family! *Mark 3:33-35*
 - 3) Equality in being an **HEIR** of the coming kingdom! *1Peter 3:7*
- Paul affirms her **DIFFERENCES** as a woman in Christ and in the church.

2. She was a **SERVANT** in Christ and the Church.

*"I commend to you our **sister** Phoebe, who is a **servant** of the church which is at Cenchrea...for she herself has also been a helper of many, and of myself as well" Romans 16:1*

- Paul affirms her **GIFTING**—*she is a sister in Christ who is also a servant that has been a helper of many!*
 - 1) Phoebe was first and foremost a "**servant**" (*diakonos*). *Matthew 27:55; Luke 8:1-3*
 - 2) Phoebe was specifically a "**helper**" (*prostatis*) of many by sharing her resources to meet pressing needs.
- Paul affirms her **EQUALITY** as a servant in Christ and in the church.
- Paul would affirm her **DIFFERENCE** as a gifted woman and leading servant in Christ and in the church.

*Elders are qualified men who were **servant leaders** in the local church. 1Timothy 3:1-7*

*Deacons are qualified men (and wives/women) who are **leading servants** in the local church. 1Timothy 3:8-13*

3) She was a **SAINT** in Christ and the Church.

*"I commend to you our **sister** Phoebe, who is a **servant** of the church which is at Cenchrrea; that you receive her in the Lord in a manner worthy of the **saints**, and that you help her in whatever she may have need of you..." Romans 16:1*

- ▶ Paul affirms her by **GRACE**—*she is a woman who has been set apart by God's grace in Christ through the gospel!*

Saints are those who have been called out by the gospel of God's grace to be born again as brothers and sisters in Christ and set apart to be His servants!

- ▶ Paul affirms her **EQUALITY** as a saint in Christ and in the church.
- ▶ Paul does acknowledge **a difference** as a woman who has **HELPED SO MANY**, including Paul himself!

What Do We Learn from Phoebe as a Sister, Servant, and Saint?

1. Her reputation as a woman in Christ was **HONORABLE!**

*"our sister Phoebe, **who is a servant of the church**...for she herself has also been a helper of many, and of myself as well." Romans 16:1-2*

As a Woman in Christ Seek to Have an HONORABLE REPUTATION with Christ and His people!

As a Local Church We Should Seek to HONOR Women with Such a REPUTATION!

2. Her recommendation as a woman in Christ was **HIGH!**

*"I **commend** to you our sister Phoebe..." Romans 16:2*

As a Woman in Christ Seek to Be HIGHLY RECOMMENDED by Christ and His people!

As a Local Church We Should Seek to HIGHLY RECOMMEND Women with Such a REPUTATION!

3. Her reception as a woman in Christ was **HOLY** and **HELPFUL!**

*"that you **receive** her in the Lord in a manner worthy of the saints, and that you help her in whatever matter she may have need of you..." Romans 16:2*

As a Woman in Christ Seek to Be Worthy of a HOLY and HELPFUL RECEPTION from Christ and His people!

- This is a **SISTER** in Christ **WHO LOVES THE BRETHREN!**
- This is a **SAINT** in the Lord **WHO has OBEDIENTLY SET HER LIFE APART to GOD to SERVE HIS PEOPLE!**
- This is a **SERVANT** of the church **WHO has HELPED MANY ACCORDING to THE TRUTH and to ADVANCE the TRUTH!**

As a Local Church We Should Seek to RECEIVE Women with Such a REPUTATION in a HOLY and HELPFUL Manner!

On This Mother's Day Every Woman Can Be a Phoebe Who Is Honored in Truth and Love as...

A Loving Sister • An Obedient Servant • A True Saint

As you focus on these roles, you will be able to excel in any other roles the Father may grant you and then Christ and others will honor you as Paul did Phoebe! But all of this is possible only in Christ through His gospel!