

Public Ministry

1. Types of activities included
 - A. Open-air preaching
 - B. Literature distribution
 - C. Scriptural signs and banners
 - D. All the above at special events
 - E. Adorning vehicles, clothing, etc... with the gospel.
2. Benefits relating to the preacher
 - A. It pleases the Lord and brings His blessing.
 - B. It frees him to teach New Testament Christianity from the Bible without condemning himself.
 - C. It teaches him how to preach through all manner of distractions.
 - D. It teaches him the importance of clarity in speech and pronunciation.
 - E. It reminds one of the ongoing opposition of the flesh.
 - F. It convinces one of what the world really thinks about Jesus Christ.
3. Benefits relating to the lost
 - A. Those who will never allow a personal witness hear the gospel.
 - B. It forces the community to deal with the gospel.
 - C. When a saved person in town wants to get serious about Christianity, he knows whom to join.
 - D. It puts a check on wickedness and iniquity.
 - E. It holds off God's judgement (Genesis 18).
4. Benefits relating to the Church
 - A. It gives every member an opportunity to be actively involved in the ministry.
 - B. It keeps its members mindful of what the world (and most professing Christians) really feel about Jesus and Bible.
 - C. It enables leaders to find out which men are called to the ministry and which ones simply want a position in a church.
 - D. It attracts those in the area who want to stand up for Jesus to the church.
 - E. It keeps the carnal babies and those who love money more than souls away. (Do not underestimate the value of that over the course of many years).
 - F. It helps keep members too busy fighting the world to think of fighting one another.
 - G. It helps raise a church full of young people who will have childhood memories of tract distribution and public gospel singing with their friends. They have the blessed privilege of growing up thinking it is perfectly normal to spend a day with friends telling the lost about Jesus.
 - H. It keeps the church separate from ministerial associations, and other such ecumenical movements.
5. Practical considerations
 - A. Do not expect results. Our purpose is to make Christ known to a crowd that does not want Him.
 - B. Aim to be at every major function consistently. Over time, you will actually be recognised as part of the activity. Opposition from authorities will all but vanish, and reception will increase.

- C. Do not stop preaching to argue or debate. Satan will always send someone who will not hear a word you say to keep you from those who will hear.
- D. Respond to sinners like a saint. A polite response to rejection today may result in a favourable hearing next time.
- E. Remember that preaching provokes conversations more than passing out a tract.
- F. It is their world. We do not belong here. They are free to act as they wish and say what they will. They may enforce their laws as they see fit. Be a polite guest.
- G. Your most consistent and irrational opposition will come from professing Christians.
- H. Your strongest opposition will come from homosexuals, who have the strongest backing from traders and law enforcement.

Women in Public Ministry

I. The Biblical Sanction

- A. There is the general instruction in scripture. To rule out women as witnesses one would have to say that all the Biblical commands to witness, the gift of the Holy Spirit to enable one to witness, the warnings given to those who do not warn their neighbour, etc... are all verses which apply only to men. This would be a private interpretation to say the least.
- B. We have a case of a woman that testified. This was a public proclamation and affected a whole city (John 4:39-43).
- C. We have a case of women carrying the gospel to friends and acquaintances who did not believe (Luke 24:10-12).
- D. We have the Holy Ghost promised for empowering witnesses. Among those in the company who received this promise were women. When the Spirit came, women were among the recipients. When Peter explained the events on the streets of Jerusalem, he pointed to male and female witnesses (Acts 1:8; 14; 2:1-4, 16-18).
- E. We have female prophets in the New Testament (Acts 21:8-9). A prophet speaks the word to others (1 Corinthians 14:3).

II. The Negatives to Consider

- A. Offences will come. It is part of life. We may as well take them for serving God (Luke 17:1-2).
- B. Do not respond in kind but be kind to those who would harass you (1 Peter 2:21).
- C. Modesty, shamefacedness, and sobriety are enough to silence most people (1 Timothy 2:9). These are all non-aggressive characteristics. They repel lewd fellows of the baser sort.

III. Using What You Know About the World

- A. The world has a certain fear of being sexist or discriminatory or chauvinistic. Use this to your advantage (1 Corinthians 7:31).
- B. True men instinctively reject forward women. Other women instinctively view them as rivals. Stay humble (1 Corinthians 11:3).

IV. The Arguments Against Women in Public Ministry

- A. Women are to be silent, and not to teach. That the context of these remarks is in the assembly of believers is clearly stated in 1 Corinthians 14 and is the overall context of 1 Timothy. Paul is not writing to tell Timothy how to run the town of Ephesus but the church which is in Ephesus. Priscilla taught Apollos (Acts 18) but not in the church.
- B. The same passage says women are to be silent. To say they can talk in the fruit and veg shop, supermarket etc... about anything but speak about Jesus is absurd.

- C. The passage says they are not to usurp authority over a man. The only man with authority over a single girl is her father. The only man with authority over a married women is her husband. My wife is not under the authority of every man in town. God forbid!
- D. The clear teaching of 1 Timothy 2 is order in the church that teaches order in the home.