

WOMEN'S ROLES

OT Jew

- Role was much higher than Rabbinic view of the 1st century
- Created from man, together were to take dominion
- Participated in worship, prayers, feasts, reading and hearing of the law
- No Priests Pagans were the opposite, priestesses, gods
- At Home subordinate - lower in rank,
- Social realm there was Freedom, they could own or run a business

Transition occurred into the 1st century

- Women became inferior to men Rabbi's continued many old traditions and produced new ones, thought to guard people from sin.

1st Century Judaism

- Jewish women could not participate in worship in the synagogue
- Seated separately to not be seen, even their entrance
- Men read scriptures, women were silent
- Forbidden to teach in school, even to young children
- Not to be trained in the Law
- Her work was to send children to the synagogue, attend to domestic affairs at home
- Rabbi's could never greet a woman on the street, even if she was a family member
- Jewish morning prayer, men thanked God that they weren't Gentile, slave or a woman
- They did have some freedoms compared to other religions, not locked in homes - women were seen in the gospels and Acts

1st Century Greek

- Life in general was much more difficult than Jewish women
- Place in religion was High
- Ephesus had Temple of Artemis, it had 100's of Priestesses which were basically sacred prostitutes
- Lower class not many historical records have been found
- Higher class led very confined lives
- Lived in her own quarters
- Did not appear at meals
- Never went out on the streets alone
- Never attended public assembly
- Remained indoors to be obedient
- Seen / heard or to ask as little as possible
- No independent existence or mind of her own
- Husband could divorce her at will
- Emphasis was dress, braided hair with ornaments (gold/jewelry)

1st Century Roman

- Woman had no rights, considered forever a child
- Under the rule of her father – he had power of life or death
- Married they were subject to his mercy
- Could make no decisions for themselves

1st Century Christian

- Consider the background of the others first
- Now imagine what becoming a Christian would bring them
- Especially the courage to become a Christian if her husband was practicing pagan idol worship (like in Ephesus)
- Christian men would bring their wives to church, but not the case for women (1Pe 3 wives issues)
- Women were given freedom, equality, joint heirs and workers
- They could participate in worship, pray and prophesy (h/s them too)
- They could learn the things of God
- Joint submission of husband and wife recognized
- Husbands were to model Christ's loving, serving as an example to their wives