Christ’s Emancipation of Women

From their Cultural Background & Baggage

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Jesus

Families
Local churches of the Bible: 70 AD

3. Athens: Acts 17:34
7. Cenchrea: Rom 16:1
8. Colossae: Col 1:2
9. Corinth: Acts 18:1
15. Hierapolis: Acts 14:21
16. Iconium: Acts 14:1; Gal 1:2
18. Joppa: Acts 8:17
20. Lystra: Acts 14:21
27. Thessalonica: Acts 17:8
28. Corinth: Acts 18:1

A. Region of Philoephta: Acts 11:19
B. Region of Samaria: Acts 8:14, 25
C. Churches of Judea: Gal 1:22
D. Churches of Galacia: Gal 1:2
E. Churches of Asia: 1 Cor 16:19
F. Churches of Macedonia: 2 Cor 8:1
Late Second Temple (160 BC - AD 70)
The Parable of the Sower

Christ sowed spiritual and social seeds
“. . . took her by the hand, and called, saying, Maid, arise.”

(Luke 8:54; Matt 9:25; Mark 5:41)
Women as Witnesses:

Mary

Elizabeth
1. Segregation
2. Communication
3. Responsibility
4. Dress
5. Witness
Women’s Cultural Segregation
Cultural Background and Baggage

"they should not mingle"
“Of the woman came the beginning of sin, and through her we all die”

(Ben Sira, 25:4)
Philo of Alexandria

(20 BC - AD 50)
“Marketplaces and council-halls, law-courts and gatherings, and meetings where a large number of people are assembled, and open-air life with full scope for discussion and action – all these are suitable to men both in war and peace.

The women are best suited to the indoor life which never strays from the house . . . A woman then, should not be a busybody, meddling with matters outside her household concerns, but should seek a life of seclusion.”

(PHILO, Special Laws III)
90-95% Jewess Peasants

“... a woman that returned from the harvest ... or from olive-picking or from the vintage”

(Mishnah, Yebamoth, 15.2).
Segregation at Home
“[Women] were always kept in seclusion and did not even appear at the house-door, and their unmarried daughters, who were limited to the women's quarter, who for modesty's sake shunned the eyes of men, even their closest relatives.
Synagogue
Court of the Women
“... lest she make thee a laughingstock to thine enemies, and a byword in the city, and a reproach among the people, and make thee ashamed before the multitude”

(Ben Sira, 42:11)
* Fear
* Demean
* Anxiety
* Hurt
* Distrust
* Comply
* Intimidation
* Unequal
* Stunted
Women’s Cultural Segregation

* Changed by Christ’s Inclusion
Feed and taught 5,000/4,000 + + (Mt 14:21; 15:38)

Refuted those who removed women and children (Mk 10:13-14)

Encouraged women stay and learn in the same room as men (Luke 7:38-40)
Mark 10:13-14; Matthew 15:23, 38
Matt 9:19-22
Mark 5:24-34
Luke 8:43-48
Leviticus 15:19-28
Deuteronomy 24:1
Ezekiel 36:17-18
“If I may touch but his clothes, I shall be whole”

(Matthew 9:21; Mark 5:28)
Luke 8:43-44

“. . . she came trembling, and falling down before him, she declared unto him before all the people for what cause she had touched him, and how she was healed immediately”

(Luke 8:47)
“Your faith has brought you salvation . . . Go in peace”

(Luke 8:47-48, ABT)
2. Communication

Greco-Roman-Judaic Cultural Background and Baggage
Talk not much with womankind... they said this of a man's own wife how much more of his fellow's wife!

(Mishnah, Avoth 1.5)
“A silent wife is a gift from the Lord; her restraint is more than money can buy”

(Ecclesiasticus, 26:14-15)
"He that talks much with womankind brings evil upon himself and neglects the study of the Law and at the last will inherit Gehenna" (Mishnah, Avoth 1:5)

"We have not found that the Almighty spoke to a woman except Sarah" (Jerusalem Talmud, ySotah. 7.1, 21b)
Christ’s Emancipation of Women
Aware of Women’s Needs

“Daughters of Jerusalem, weep not for me, but weep for yourselves, and for your children.”

(Luke 23:28)
SAMARITAN WOMAN
JOHN 4:6
John 4:9

“How is it that thou, being a Jew, askest drink of me, which am a woman . . .”
“If thou knewest the gift of God, and who it is that saith to thee, Give me to drink; thou wouldest have asked of him, and he would have given thee living water” (John 4:10)
“. . . The water that I shall give him shall be in him a well of water springing up into everlasting life” (John 4:14)
Taught Women How to Worship

“True worshippers shall worship the Father in spirit and in truth ...”

(John 4:19-23)
“I that speak unto thee am He”

(John 4:26)
1. Segregation

2. Communication

3. Responsibilities

4. Dress

5. Witness
“All we [men] can expect from them [women] is that they bring up our children and keep us from sin”

(Babylonian Talmud, Yebamoth, 63a)
Jewess’ Responsibilities

Grind flour
Bake bread
Wash clothes
Cook food
Nurse her child
Make her husband’s bed
Prepare his cup
Work in wool

“...If she brings one servant with her, she need not grind”

(Mishnah, Ketuboth, 5:5).
Mishnah, Ketuboth, 5:5

Philo, Genesis, 1.29

Ben Sira, Ecclesiasticus, 36:26
God cursed Adam in the Garden of Eden . . . “because he weakly submitted to the counsel of his wife”
“Better is the iniquity of a man, than a woman doing a good turn, and a woman bringing shame and reproach.”

Ben Sira 42:14
“... For says the Scripture, ‘A woman is inferior to her husband in all things.’”
“THE anomaly of women is worked out ... by assigning her to a man’s domain.”

Women are “sanctified through the deeds of men . . .”

(Antiquities of the Jews, I.1.4)
Changed by Jesus
Jesus “loved Martha, and her sister, and Lazarus”

(John 11:5)
If a man gives his daughter a knowledge of The Law it is as though he taught her lechery.

Mishnah, Sotah, 3.4
“Martha, Martha, thou art careful and troubled about many things”

(Luke 10:41-42)
Mary and Martha

“... But one thing is needful: and Mary hath chosen that good part...” (Luke 10:42)
“... which shall not be taken away from her”

(Luke 10:42)
GIRLS AND STUDY

• “Women attend only as listeners whereas men come to study”

• “Anyone who teaches his daughter Torah is as though he has taught her lechery”  (*Mishnah*, mSot. 3.4)

• “They shall burn the teachings of Torah rather than convey them to women”
which shall not be taken away from her" (Luke 10:42)
1. Segregation
2. Communication
3. Responsibilities
4. Dress
5. Witnesses
Greco-Roman Customs
Changes in the late Second Temple Era
(70 BC - AD 70)
Cultural Background and Baggage

“You have departed from the way of the daughters of Israel, whose habit it is to have their heads covered, and you have walked in the ways of idolatrous women who walk about with their heads uncovered.”
Pharisaic Jewish Custom

WOMEN wore “two head veils, a head-band on the forehead with bands to the chin, and a hairnet with ribbons and knots, so that her features could not be recognized” (Jeremias, Jerusalem, 359)
“A man goes out bareheaded while a woman goes out with her head covered” (Genesis Rabbi 17.8)
Changes by Jesus
“I entered into thine house, thou gavest me no water for my feet: but she hath washed my feet with tears, and wiped them with the hairs of her head. Thou gavest me no kiss: but this woman since the time I came in hath not ceased to kiss my feet. My head with oil thou didst not anoint: but this woman hath anointed my feet with ointment”

(Luke 7:44-46)
“Her sins, which are many, are forgiven; for she loved much”

(Luke 7:47)
“Beware of the scribes, which desire to walk in long robes, and love greetings in the markets, and the highest seats in the synagogues, and the chief rooms at feasts”

(Luke 20:46)
Ephesians 6:10-18

"Be strong in the Lord and in His mighty power. Put on the full armor of God so that you can stand against the devil's schemes."

- The Helmet of Salvation (Eph 6:17)
  Put on the Helmet of Salvation by believing that Jesus Christ died for your sins and rose again.

- The Shield of Faith (Eph 6:16)
  Faith is being sure that God will keep His promises. Faith in God protects you when you are tempted to doubt.

- The Breastplate of Righteousness (Eph 6:14)
  Righteousness is being honest, good, humble, and fair to others. It means standing up for weaker people.

- The Belt of Truth (Eph 6:14)
  Truth keeps us from giving in to the world's beliefs. Compare your beliefs and actions to the truth of the Word of God.

- The Sword of the Spirit (Eph 6:17)
  Which is the Word of God. God's Word is our offensive weapon. When we tell others what the Bible says, the Holy Spirit helps people see their bad thoughts and actions, and makes them want to be forgiven.

- Feet Prepared with the Gospel of Peace (Eph 6:15)
  The Gospel of Peace is being right with God and being contented in troubled times. Jesus said peacemakers were blessed.
1. Segregation

2. Communication

3. Responsibilities

4. Dress

5. Witnesses
“Sarah denied, saying, I laughed not.”

(Genesis 18:15)
Women Witness

“levity and boldness of their sex.”
Age for Jewish Betrothal:

- Male: 18 (Marriage 12 - 20)
- Female: 12 (Marriage 12-16)
“...walking in all the commandments and ordinances of the Lord blameless” (Luke 1:6)
“... Anna, a prophetess”

(Luke 2:36-38)
Simon Peter answered and said, Thou art the Christ, the Son of the living God.

(Matt 16:17)

She saith unto him, Yea, Lord I believe that Thou art the Christ, the Son of God, which should come into the world.

(John 11:27)
“. . . The angel answered and said unto the women, Fear not ye: for I know that ye seek Jesus . . .

Go quickly, and tell his disciples that he is risen”

(Matthew 28:5,7)
First Witness of the Resurrection

“Jesus saith unto her, Mary . . .”

(John 20:11)
Christ on Servitude
Jew
6 years

Roman
30 yr-old
Handmaiden = Slave

“Behold the handmaid of the Lord; be it unto me according to thy word”
(Luke 1:38)
“One mightier than I cometh, the latchet of whose shoes I am not worthy to unloose.”
Another Social Change by Jesus
Matthew 10:24

"The disciple is not above his master,

nor the servant above his lord"

Mark 10:44

"Whosoever of you will be the chiefest,

shall be servant of all"

Luke 19:17

"Thou good servant: because thou hast been faithful in a very little, have thou authority over ten cities"
“If anyone would be first, he must be last of all and servant of all” (Mark 9:35, ESV)
“I have not found so great faith, no, not in Israel”
Luke 7:9
“And whosoever shall exalt himself shall be abased; and he that shall humble himself shall be exalted”

Matthew 23:12
“Never shall You wash my feet! . . .

If I wash thee not, thou hast no part with me”

(John 13:7-8, NIV).
“For even the Son of man came not to be ministered unto, but to minister, and to give his life a ransom for many”

(Mark 10:45)
Suffering Servant
(Isaiah 49, 52, 53:2-11)
Greco-Romans: Children

“. . . irrational creatures to be trained as quickly as possible for the purposes of the adult world”
“Whoever honors his father atones for sins, and whoever glorifies his mother is like one who lays up treasure. Whoever glorifies his father will have long life, and whoever obeys the Lord will refresh his mother”

(Ben Sira, *Ecclesiasticus*, 3:2-9)
“Stripes and correction are at all times wisdom . . . loving fathers [do] not spare the rod, . . . break him in and beat him sound while he is still a child . . . He that loveth his son, frequently chastiseth him, that he may rejoice in his latter end . . . A horse not broken becometh stubborn, and a child left to himself will become headstrong. Give thy son his way, and he shall make thee afraid: play with him, and he shall make thee sorrowful. Laugh not with him, lest thou have sorrow, and at the last thy teeth be set on edge. Give him not liberty in his youth, and wink not at his devices. Bow down his neck while he is young, and beat his sides while he is a child, lest he grow stubborn, and regard thee not, and so be a sorrow of heart to thee”

Ben Sira, *Ecclesiastes*, 22:6; 30:1, 2, 12; 30:1, 8-12

**Discipline**
1/3 die before 1 yr.

½ before 10 yrs.
“Take heed that ye despise not one of these little ones”

Matthew 10:10
“Then were there brought unto him little children, that he should put his hands on them, and pray: and the disciples rebuked them,

... when Jesus saw it, he was much displeased”

(Mark 10:14)
Except ye be converted, and become as little children, ye shall not enter into the kingdom of heaven. Whosoever therefore shall humble himself as this little child, the same is greatest in the kingdom of heaven”

(Matthew 18:2-4)
“Whoso shall offend one of these little ones which believe in me, it were better for him that a millstone were hanged about his neck, and that he were drowned in the depth of the sea”

Matthew 18:6; Mark 9:42; Luke 17:2
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