

*** GIVE THANKS ***

Thanksgiving Service

WELCOME

We warmly welcome you, if you are worshipping with us for the first time. We believe you've become a member of our church family by God's grace.

Please ensure you speak to the Pastor or one of today's facilitators before you leave.

May God bless you richly (Amen).

VERSE(S) OF THE DAY

Then God said, "Let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness; let them have dominion over ... all the earth ..." So God created man in His own image; in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them.

Genesis 1:26-27 (NKJV)

THEME FOR THE YEAR

Faith in action

(2 Thessalonians 1:11)

We're trusting God to enable us to do all the good things faith prompts in us in Jesus name (NLT).

DID YOU KNOW?

Every Sunday, we worship together at **Unit 13, Skylines Village**. When unable to attend, do visit our website or YouTube channel for recorded sessions.

FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK ... *contd*

The woman question ...contd

If we follow the doctrines of Paul to the letter, the answer to our core question is "No." Women can't teach, lead worship or have authority over men, even in the children's church. However, like Moses Paul was establishing a church and he offered rules and standards for orderliness in accordance with the Mosaic laws and the culture of his time. We can also assume he expected the church he built to grow, mature and evolve (1 Cor 3:10-13).

There's no doubt women are undervalued and their position denigrated all through the scriptures. Prophet Isaiah once said God is punishing a nation when women and children lead them (Isaiah 3:12). Even when mentioned, most can only operate under the banner of their husbands (Judges 4:4). However, God created men and women as equals (Gen 1:26-28). In fact, men were supposed to leave their homes and cleave to their wives in the original plan (Gen 2:24). After Adam sinned, this changed (Gen 3:6-13; 16), but salvation have redeemed us from the law (Rom 6:14). That's why later, Peter counselled husbands to honour their wives, calling them joint heirs (1 Pet 3:7).

Bottom line:

The original plan of God is clear and even in the OT, fairness is often maintained (Num 27:1-11; Josh 17:3-6). Christianity is intended to be the agent of change, to transform the world. We need not remain mired under the shackles of the law, from which we've been set free (Rom 6:14).



Sunday 5 February 2023

WELCOME

Redeemed Christian Church of God

Bethel

WEEKLY SERVICES & MEETINGS

SUNDAY

Thanksgiving / Worship service
From 10am

FRIDAY

Prayer meeting / Bible study
From 7pm

RCCG Bethel Parish

Unit 13, Skylines Village

Limeharbour, London E14 9TS

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Our 'must-visit' website



Our website is a treasure trove of information, and not only about our focus and mission. You could subscribe to our podcast or listen to past sermons too (<http://rccgbethel.church/sermons/>). This is particularly useful for when you are unable to attend services or for refreshing your recollection as an essential part of your private Bible study.

There's more! Details of events and outreach will almost certainly be available from relevant pages on our website and updated regularly, along with downloadable copies of our Sunday bulletins (<http://rccgbethel.church/category/bulletins/>).

So, why don't you set our homepage as one of your **startup page(s)** in your browser now? The following instructions for most of the common browsers may help.

Google Chrome

1. Open the browser and the **Settings** menu (or the **three vertical dots** to the right of the menu bar).
2. Scroll down and click on **Advanced Settings**.
3. Select **Open a specific page or set of pages** under **On Startup**.
4. Select **Set pages** and enter or add <http://rccgbethel.church/>.

Mozilla Firefox

1. Open Firefox. Press **Alt-T** on the keyboard and select **Options** from the drop-down menu or go to **Tools >> Options** from the main menu.
2. In the **Home** section, select **Homepage and new windows** and **Custom URLs...** from the field's drop down.
3. Enter or paste the URL: <http://rccgbethel.church/> or click **Use Current Page** if you are already on our website.

Microsoft Edge

1. Click the **three horizontal dots** to the right of the top menu bar.
2. Select **Settings** and select **A Specific Page or Pages** from the **Open Microsoft Edge With** section drop down options.
3. Enter <http://rccgbethel.church/>. (Click the Plus sign to add more pages if required).
4. Click the **three horizontal dots** to the right of the top menu bar again to close **Settings** menu.

FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK

The woman question

Text: 1 Timothy 2:8-12

Are women permitted to teach in the church? Paul said we should remain the pillar of truth until our Lord comes (1 Tim 3:15) and on that note, are we trying to conform to the world or should we make the world conform to us? There may be some things we may find challenging today, but we should also appreciate that none of us is infallible, including Apostle Paul and he made that clear in his letters. For example, he would say at times that something he said was his opinion on certain matters, stating there are times we know in part and the perfect is yet to come (1 Cor 13:9-10).

Paul's response when he was asked a question about marriage could help inform our discussion today (1 Cor 7:7-40). The ideal he preferred is to remain single, but he also said each should live the life they've been called to live. The sum total of this response gives the impression that he thought of the issue as an unnecessary distraction, saying something similar about widows (1 Tim 5:11-16).

In our text today, he was unequivocal about the parts men and women should play and the kind of life they should lead. Men should pray and the women are not permitted to teach or have any authority over a man. In another scripture, he made it clear that women should stay silent in the church and only learn from their husband when they get home. In fact, he called it shameful for women to speak in church (1 Cor 14:33-35 – NKJV).

Paul said this was according to the law and we know Paul was referring to the Mosaic law. Over and above the ten commandments, they were the by-laws used by Moses to establish the nation of Israel. Paul was controversial and had to defend his teachings a lot. This was the case when they argued they about circumcision, with Peter and Paul on opposing sides (Gal 2:11-13). It is why Peter stated that his message have often been distorted by those who are ignorant (2 Pet 3:15-16).

However, when Jesus came, he challenged these laws again and again. In Christ, there's neither male or female (Gal 3:28). Paul said it was shameful for a woman to speak in the church because it is the prevailing culture of his time. Would we think the same today, especially when women are the majority in most churches? Also, in those days, men's age start from about thirteen years. So, if we adhere to his teaching today, we're saying a woman is not qualified to teach a thirteen-year-old.

We may often be selective in the laws we observe (Matt 23:1-38), but Christianity was designed to break barriers between Jews and Gentiles, slaves and owners, men and women (Gal 3:28) and the status /roles of women began to change in the early Church (e.g. Matt 22:23-30). Tradition says men go out to work and women stay at home and for years, society have denigrated "stay at home" mothers, seeing them as being lower than those engaged in physical or paid labour.

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RCCG Bethel Parish

The pillar of truth, defining the future today