

Keeping Mission Integrity

*Almighty God, in your kindness you cause the light of the Gospel to shine among us.
By the working of the Holy Spirit, enable us to share the good news of your salvation that all who hear it
may rejoice in the gift of your unending love;
through Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and
forever.*

1 Since his mother was Jewish, Timothy was regarded as legally Jewish. Therefore St Paul had Timothy circumcised (Acts 16:1-5) so as not to cause unnecessary offence to fellow Jews. Yet how did he respond to believers who regarded circumcision as necessary for Gentiles? (See Galatians 2:1-5.) How did he react when Jewish believers wouldn't associate with uncircumcised Gentile believers? (Galatians 2:11-14.)

Similarly, under what circumstances was a believer to refrain from eating meat or drinking wine? (Romans 14:13-21; 15:1-3. See also 1 Corinthians 9:19-23; 10:28, 32.)

2 Is consideration for the weak brother or sister given in 1 Corinthians 14:33b-40 and 1 Timothy 2:11-15 as the reason for not allowing women to preach and teach in congregational worship? What reasons are given?

3 On many occasions our Lord Jesus didn't conform to people's expectations, to show that He'd come to make everything new.

What do the following texts show about the ways he was different?

- Matthew 9:14//Mark 2:18//Luke 5:33
- Mark 7:1-8; Luke 11:38
- Matthew 12:9-14//Mark 3:1-6//Luke 6:1-11
- John 4:27
- Jesus shocked Pharisees, Bible scholars, and people in general when he called them to repent. (Luke 11:37-52; 13:3, 5)
- His crucifixion goes against human reason, Matthew 16:21-23; 17:22, 23 and parallels; 1 Corinthians 1:23.

Jesus treated women as made equally in God's image, along with men. (Luke 7:37-50; 8:1-3; 10:38-42) He made women the first witnesses of Him risen from the dead. Had He wanted to, He could have given any number of those women leadership positions. Women served as leaders in some pagan cults. That Paul did not appoint them to lead is in keeping with 1 Corinthians 14:33b-40 and 1 Timothy 2:11-15, and for the good of the church's mission.

*A sure defence, Lord, is your word,
your church's buckler, shield, and sword;
in its great power let us confide,
that we may seek no other guide.
(LHS 260 stanza 7)*

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