

WOMAN'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**