

they had to marry the husbands chosen by their fathers, even though they had never previously seen the men who were to be their lords and masters. Their fathers married them off to advance the social position of their families; it was woman's simple duty to obey meekly. Husbands were men, and it was considered immodest and disgraceful not to yield submissively to their rule. The evil effects of the fall were still in active operation. Would those who quote Paul be willing to have the marriage relations and social customs of Paul's time prevail to-day? Do they imagine that Paul meant to recommend the perpetuation of the customs and marriage relationships of Asia and Western Europe 2,000 years ago? Do they believe that the great Apostle had so little faith in the uplifting power of the Gospel he preached so intelligently as not to know that it would free woman from the subserviency that prevented the development of her true individuality and restrained her from assuming her responsibility in working for humanity and God? Do they think Paul would require the women of America to wear the heavy, thick garments called veils in the East, on the wearing of which he laid so much stress in the 11th chapter of 1 Corinthians? Do they think Paul, if alive to-day, would object to the thousands of women who teach in Sunday Schools and work in the Church, in Mission, Christian Endeavor, Temperance and other societies, and who sing and pray in the churches without having their faces concealed? If he did, he would stop most of the Christian work of the world.

Why, women are actually allowed to vote in church meetings now by nearly all Protestant Churches! Does anyone suppose Paul would object if he could speak to-day? He had more good judgment than his narrow-minded interpreters. With his utterances referring to local conditions we have nothing to do, and his teachings regarding woman in the family, however they may be understood, have no bearing on her right to the suffrage. Freedom is the soul of Christian truth. "God is no respecter of persons," neither is He a respecter of sexes. Individual responsibility is the greatest lesson taught by Christ, and woman is an individual. The "Golden Rule" solves all questions regarding human relationships, and by the "Golden