

1 Timothy, Chapter Two, Lesson Four

AUTHORITY PRESCRIBED 1 Timothy 2:11-15

STIMULATE

** Last week we observed how both men and women were to be “**Adorned Properly**” for times of corporate worship. For each of them, how did the characteristics of their lifestyles become their adornment?

For the men: They were to lead the worship and prayer time by “lifting up holy hands”. Their hands representing the activities of their lives, were to be holy because their walk with Christ was holy! cf. Psalm 66:18 and James 5:16

For the women: They were to adorn themselves “by means of good works, as befits women making a claim to godliness.” Their claim of faith in Christ and a new life in Him was to be validated through the means of good works. cf. James 2:14-20

** When it comes to being “**Adorned Properly**”, what is your desire? Whether male or female, do you want your outward appearance to reflect the inward change of heart that Christ brought about at your salvation?

Absolutely! We should strive each day, allowing the Holy Spirit to manifest the glory of Christ through us in our victory over sin and a life of godliness for His glory. cf. Romans 13:13-14

MOTIVATE

** Authority and submission are two pillars upon which all of God’s creation has been placed. The Godhead itself functions within the parameters of authority and submission. While the Father, Son and Holy Spirit are all entirely equal and equally God, they function together through a perfect display of loving and sacrificial authority and submission.

cf. John 4:34, 5:30, 6:38 and Philippians 2:5-11 with Ephesians 5:21-27

So what is God’s prescription for authority within the church? When the church gathers together for worship, how is it to function? For the answer, let’s read our passage for this evening and see “**Authority Prescribed**” in the inspired words of the apostle Paul.

Read passage (V.11-15)

Opening Prayer

Authority Prescribed

INVESTIGATE

V.11 ** Now that Paul has both the men and women of the church “**Adorned Properly**”, to what role does he call the women who attend the corporate worship of Christ?

To the role of “learner” or “disciple”. While women are not to be the public teachers within the church setting, neither are they to be excluded from it. The verb used by Paul in verse 11 is an imperative form of *manthano* which means “to learn” or “to be informed”, from which the Greek word translated “disciple” or “learner” derives.

** This is not a request, but a command from the apostle. Why would Paul have to command that women be allowed to learn God's word?

Because that was not the normal pattern of the day! Judaism in the first century did not hold women in high esteem. Though they did not prevent them from attending a synagogue, they did not encourage them to learn. In fact, most rabbis refused to teach women.

Similarly in the Greek society of that day, women were kept away from public events. Regarding this practice William Barclay writes, "The respectable Greek woman led a very confined life. She lived in her own quarters into which no one but her husband came. She did not even appear at meals. She never at any time appeared on the street alone; she never went to any public assembly."

** Into this hostile Greek and Jewish culture Paul commands, "Let a woman quietly receive instruction". Did Paul think that women were inferior to men?

No - He makes that crystal clear in his letter to the Galatians. All see - Galatians 3:26-29

** That passage addresses the equality of all believers, but does it eradicate the uniqueness of the believer or of their role to which they have been called?

No - Even though all Christians are equal in the sight of their Savior and God, they still have a unique function within the body of Christ. Although equal, there will always be a difference in the role of the Jew and Gentile, the slave and his master, a child and their parent, a citizen and their governing authority, and a man and a woman.

** Women within the church are hereby protected from the cultural practice of exclusion and are welcomed into the assembly of worshippers. Their role being prescribed by God Himself as one of a "learner" or "disciple", how are they to fulfill that role? What two parameters does Paul place upon how they are to learn God's word?

1) quietly - *hesuchia* also appears at the end of verse 12 indicating that the learner's role is accomplished while listening.

2) with entire submissiveness - *hupotage* (used by Paul for submissiveness) means "to line up under". By adding "entire" to the call for submissiveness, Paul is emphasizing a complete subjection to God's prescribed authority. The women who had been excluded from Jewish worship and Greek society, were now welcome within the church and were to be content with their role of listening and learning with a submissive heart.

V.12 ** This passage has proven to be one of the most controversial subjects within all of Scripture, both then and now. What Paul had just said in verse 11 could have been misunderstood, so he takes the time to explain exactly what he meant by women remaining quiet within the church service. Did he mean that a woman was not allowed to speak while at church?

Of course not! As noted earlier, this explanation is bracketed by the command for women to remain quiet. Paul is saying that relative to the authoritative role of a teacher, women are to remain quiet.

** Which two activities does the Spirit of God prohibit for women within the corporate worship time of the church?

- 1) teaching
- 2) exercising authority over a man

****** When Paul said, “I do not allow”, was he just expressing a personal bias against women?

No - Remember this is an apostle of Jesus Christ speaking with the authority of God’s Word and delivering God’s prescription for authority and submission within the church.

The word “allow” comes from *epitrepo* and is always used in the New Testament to speak of permitting someone to do what they desire to do. Paul’s choice of words may imply that some women in Ephesus desired to be the public preacher, and thus have authority over the congregation - as in today’s church.

V.13 ** So we have seen that the “**Authority Prescribed**” by God for the leading of His church in worship is made up of two components. First that men are to lead with “holy hands” and second, that women are to be content with the role of submissive learning. But why? How did all of this come about in the mind of God? In the next two verses, Paul will show us two divine explanations for this Biblical pattern of spiritual leadership. What is the first reason given by Paul?

1) The order of creation: “For it was Adam who was first created, and then Eve.” Paul is saying that the very order of creation exposes God’s intent for the role of authority. Man was created first and given a role of authority, while woman was created second and given a role of helper or supporter. All see - Genesis 2:7, 15-20, 1Corinthians 11:8-9

V.14 ** As we move into verse 14, we learn God’s second reason for this Biblical pattern of spiritual leadership, do you see it?

2) The effects of a woman usurping the headship role which has been given to men by God.

Paul is not saying that the fall of mankind is the reason women are to be submissive and “quiet” in church, but rather he demonstrates for us what happened when Eve chose to step out from under the protection and leadership of Adam which God had afforded her.

All see - Genesis 3:1-7

V. 1 - Did God tell Eve about not eating from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil?

No - He had told Adam that back in Genesis 2:17. Adam in turn had fulfilled the role of spiritual leadership and instructed his wife regarding God’s command.

Genesis 3:1-7 (cont’d.)

V. 2 and 3 - What does Eve add to God’s command as she takes upon herself the role of spiritual leader and teacher?

She informs the serpent that God said, “You shall not eat from it or touch it, lest you die”.

V. 4 - Did God say that?

No - And Satan knew it! So he reassures Eve that she will not die by touching the fruit, which she again takes upon herself to do without consulting with her husband.

V. 6 - This verse contains just three little words in our English translations which represent Adam's failure as a husband, spiritual leader and teacher. They also give the reason for the fall of the entire human race into sin. Do you see them?

“...and he ate.” Adam was not deceived by Satan, he did not even speak with Satan. Instead he violated his God given role as head of his family and followed his wife into sin. She had been fooled, Adam willfully disobeyed God!

cf. Romans 5:12 and 1Corinthians 15:21-22

V.15 ** Since women, represented by Eve, were the catalyst for the fall of mankind because of Eve’s ability to be deceived; should they all be left with the stigma of her sin?

Absolutely not! They shall be “preserved” through the bearing of children...

Paul uses the word *sozo* for preserved, which means “to rescue,” “to preserve safe and unharmed,” “to heal,” “to set free,” or “to deliver from”. This extremely descriptive term is used to demonstrate how the honor of a woman is preserved when she gives birth to a child and raises up a godly or righteous seed. This constitutes a complete reversal of the effects brought about by Eve’s usurping of Adam’s leadership role.

cf. Proverbs 31:27-31

** How do we know that this godly woman is for real?

Because she lives her life “...in faith and love and sanctity with self-restraint.”

** God has so exalted women, so as to welcome them to learn His word, accept their role of submission when they join in the worship of Jesus Christ with all of the saints and to have their honor preserved by bearing and raising the next godly generation. What an amazing blessing! How does that last word in verse 15 describe the godly women’s effort in accepting her role in the church?

“self-restraint” - translates *sophrosune*, a word we learned last week from verse nine where it was translated as “discreetly”. You will remember that the word means “self-control” and here is used to remind the godly woman to do all she can to honor the Lord without being tempted by the view which is held by the world around her.

EXTRICATE

** What lesson are the men of the church to learn from Adam’s bad example, which we saw together in this study?

We must not violate our God-given role as leader, teacher, provider and protector of our wives. We must faithfully live the standard and lead our helpmates into a more Christ-like lifestyle each day!

DELINEATE

** To what role has God graciously called the women of the church, within the corporate worship service?

The role of “learner” or “disciple” who quietly receives instruction from the Word of God.

** With which attitude does the godly woman fulfill this role?

Contentedness, she does not seek to take a man’s position; but receives her instruction in the Word “with entire submissiveness”.

EVALUATE

** Male or female, where are you today in honoring the “**Authority Prescribed**” by God Himself within the church? Are you doing your part?

ACTIVATE

** Let’s commit our hearts to obeying God’s expressed Word and will, that our times of worship would be both in Spirit and in Truth for His glory.

Closing Prayer