

1 Timothy 2:8-15

Adam's Rib or Women's lib!

Intro: I was reading an article the other day – by a popular So. Cal minister who's Pastors a very large Church.

A) In the article he was talking about his approach to Sunday morning at their Church - laying out his Strategy for attracting new people.

B) **On Sunday mornings** : The messages are topical in nature and The Focus of my message is always positive.

C) That is one of the advantages for the preacher – in teaching topically is that you can pick and choose your text -

1) You can avoid passages that are negative / controversial / or challenging !

D) **It is a benefit for the Preacher** – easy to be well liked when that is your approach – each week is a pep talk – Encouragement time

1) Beneficial for the Preacher – but it is not beneficial for the congregation

They don't get a balanced diet of God's word!

Paul said to the Church of Ephesus in Acts 20 when I was with you I did not hesitate to give you the full counsel of the word of God

A) That is why here at CC we teach thru books of the Bible – with us long enough – Whole bible at least once.

B) But teaching that way can be challenging – it means you have to deal with the difficult passages

1) Today we are looking at one of the most controversial and misunderstood passages in the NT – **Role & Conduct of women in the Church**

C) For many women – this passage is a big negative –

1) over the yrs – women have accused Paul as being Sexist or Chauvinistic because of what is written here.

D) **Quite frankly that shouldn't be the case at all.**

Now a theme verse in 1 Timothy 3:15

I write so that you may know how you ought to conduct yourself in the house of God, which is the church of the living God, the pillar and ground of the truth

A) That is what Paul is dealing with here in 1 Timothy is Conduct in the Church. Two areas: 1st Appearance / 2nd attitude and action:

RD V 8-15

Modest apparel:

A) A daily complicated decision for a lot of women is { **What am I going to wear?**

B) Guys have it so much easier! – So simple: We know it is either going to be Shorts or Pants – **Collared shirt or t-shirt – shoes are flip flops**

1) Throw in the color of a tie for work or some important event and that is about as complicated as it gets for us.

C) With women it is a whole different story! She has to choose between:

1) **Pants, dress, skirt** – what length mini / mid / long/ Skirt or shorts

2) **Shirt** is it going to be collared / Regular neck / V neck or Swooped

3) **Material** – the buttons the pattern all come into Play!

D) When it comes to women – the occasion is important! A guy can wear a collared shirt – Jeans and flip flops to a wedding – get a way w/ it.

1) Tuck in the shirt and throw on a belt – **Considered Dressed up**

2) Most women would not consider such an outfit for a wedding.

Well the occasion Paul is addressing here is Church! How should a woman dress when she is with the family God? Modest apparel

What is **modest apparel**? The words **propriety and moderation** help explain.

Propriety asks, “Is it appropriate for the occasion? Is it over-dressed or under-dressed? Is it going to call inappropriate attention to myself?”

Moderation asks, “Is it moderate? Is it just too much – or far too little?” **Moderation** looks for a middle ground.

Now Paul singles out two things here in his Description: Hair and jewelry
And there is a reason for this.

A) **Not with Braided hair** – w/ Gold – what is wrong with Braided hair
Nothing in and of itself

B) But remember Ephesus was the centered in that region for Diana Worship

1) Those who led the worship of Dianna employed 100 temple Prostitutes who went looking for new members – engage in sexual practices

C) The worship of **Dianna was so popular** and an important aspect of worldly life in Ephesus – that these Prostitutes – Fashion setters

1) Key aspect of their appearance was Braided hair – intermixed with gold.

D) Many women in Ephesus – in order to appear seductive – followed the examples of these ladies in the worship of Dianna .

So By singling out this particular thing: Paul was in essence saying to the women in the Church at Ephesus – Dress different from the world.

A) Today’s Trend setters – Britney / Jessica / Paris / Madonna

B) Sad to see Christian young girls – following suit –

1) Nightie–

C) Carry out of the Church and into public life – What you wear sends a message!

ILL- In 1960 Mary Quant introduced the mini-skirt. She said she designed it to announce to the world that she was ready to go to bed with a man, day or night.

Braided Hair and Gold – equal Seductive: What today would fall in that Category?

A) Plunging neck lines – Low / low rise jeans hip bones showing / used to be the tummy gotten lower - Revealing thong under wear –

B) Tight tight shirts – Hooters girls –

1) Basic idea is that attitude that says – I’ve got it and I am going to flaunt it –

2) Attitude wear a women is purely trying to attract the attention of men.

Ray Stedman:

“So that if a woman comes with her hair done up in the latest fashion, wearing the latest low-cut dress and flashy jewelry, she is obviously not trying to get God's attention; she wants men's attention. Her choice of clothing, reveals her heart.”

C) So Paul singles out the issue of being Seductive – but also Extravagant – Pearls

1) **Pearls** were considered to have the topmost rank among valuables (considered to be 3 x's more valuable than gold!)

D) Some of the **best garments** could cost up to 7000 denarii. (one denarius was a laborer's days wage)

Here Paul is hitting on that attitude that tends to creep in amongst women of Rivalry – who's is doing better ! –

A) Both attitudes are wrong especially in Church – Because it takes people's attention which should be on God – puts it on you.

B) That is one of the most sinful things a person can do – Rob God of Glory and attention!

1) Yet it happens quite often in Church circles

1 Peter 3:3-4

Do not let your adornment be merely outward -- arranging the hair, wearing gold, or putting on fine apparel --4 rather let it be the hidden person of the heart, with the incorruptible beauty of a gentle and quiet spirit, which is very precious in the sight of God

C) Peter declared to women don't let your focus be only outward – Ok

1) **Opposite extreme is total neglect** – Becomes another distraction – Peter says don't only be about the outward – but inner hidden person –

D) They should be known, not necessarily for their **good looks**, but for their **good works!**

1) **He just doesn't want glitter & gaudiness to replace godliness!**

E) It's **character** not **clothes** that makes the woman!

1) It's **holiness** not **hair!** - It's **godliness** not **Gucci.**

2) It's **temperament** not shopping at **Tiffany's**.

Ladies may I be frank? Modest = not dressing to kill!

A) Q: Who do you dress for on Sunday mornings?

B) Q: As you stand in the mirror ask Jesus, How do I look?

1) Q: Would Jesus blush walking in with you to church?

Attitude and Actions: V. 11-15

A) Now when Paul says that women are to learn in Silence – not saying they can't talk – 1 Cor 11 women praying & Prophesying in Church

B) Notice that the word "silence is used earlier in verse 2 of this chapter.

1) But there it refers to the "quiet" life which all godly people should lead. "Pray . . . that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life, godly and respectful in every way."

C) This gives you the tone and the extent of the word. It doesn't refer to absolute silence: a "quiet" and peaceable life is not a life of total silence.

1) It's a life untroubled and serene and content.

D) So Paul is not saying women can't talk in Church -

And When Paul says that a woman is not permitted to teach – Doesn't mean at all !

A) Titus 2:3 Older teach the younger /

B) Another example is 2 Timothy 3:14 where Paul tells Timothy to remember from whom he learned the scriptures.

1) And the persons he has in mind (we can tell from 2 Tim. 1:5) are Eunice and Lois, Timothy's mother and grandmother.

C) One other example is Priscilla. It says in Acts 18:26, "When Priscilla and Aquila heard Apollos, they took him and expounded to him the way of God more accurately."

Is it possible to generalize then about what Paul does have in mind here when he says, "I do not permit a woman to teach" ?

A) I think the safest thing to do is let the next phrase guide us. The next phrase is, ". . . or exercise authority over men." "I do not permit a woman to teach or to exercise authority over men."

B) **Issue is authority - leading in the Church!**

C) The key that unlocks this door is a very interesting observation.

1) When you read the rest of 1 Timothy about the role of elders in the church what you find is that the elders had two basic responsibilities:

D) **They were to govern and they were to teach.**

1_ You can see this in the qualifications of 3:1-7, but the easiest place to see it is in 5:17, **"Let the elders who rule (or govern) well be considered worthy of double honor, especially those who**

labor in preaching and teaching."

E) Context of this Passage: V.1-8 Men Pray – Ch. 3 Qualifications of Elders and Deacons – Pt. Men be leaders – in Prayer in the Church!

This poses a problem for a lot of women: Why? Not Fair

A) Women are Smarter – VALEDICTORIANS

B) More Organized –

1) Better communicators – true in counseling !

C) So a lot of women today – This is cultural – doesn't apply today!

1) The text doesn't support that – Paul goes all the way back to Adam – back to the beginning ! Back to CREATION!

When God made man and woman { Equality – Let us make them in our own image. Genesis 1:27 Made in His image. = Equality

A) But it is an ordered equality – man was made first !

B) In fact man was made quite a bit earlier than woman.

1) Adam's job – name the animals – Mr / Mrs Lion / Giraffe/ Hippo

2) PROBLEM: NO Mrs. – Adam !

C) God put Adam to Sleep { Single people} From his Rib formed Eve!

1) So the woman was made AFTER the man / OUT of the man / and FOR the man!

D) Adam woke up from his sleep and saw Eve – Said At Last! – *Men are still saying that about the tardiness of women*

1) At last – Bone of my Bone and flesh of my flesh!

Adam named Eve – like he named the animals – Naming speaks of authority

A) Adam name is Ish = man / Eve is IShi – woman { idea is she is like me
She is equal to me !

B) But it was an ordered equality – Adam was first – Eve 2nd –

1) Gen 2:27 Man leave mother and father – cleave to his wife – One flesh

C) That was God's plan – Ordered equality – Man and woman serving each other ! Man as the head – But Eve serving a Perfect man.

SIN MESSED THAT UP!

A) Sin in the Garden – Curse – Man till the ground – women desire to rule over her husband.

B) So when we are holding to God's pattern here of Authority – We are communicating 1/2 of the gospel. –

1) We are admitting We are flawed!

C) Also declaring even though we don't understand – what God has set up – we are submitting to him that He knows best!

So first Paul points to Creation – Man was made first ! Then he points to the fall – Eve was deceived!

A) Eve's sin was doctrinal deception- Spiritual appeal – *eat this and you will be like God!*

B) Women have a tendency to be more spiritually minded than men!

1) Mary washed Jesus feet – Disciples – why the waste

C) Women first at the tomb – last at the cross

1) Women read more books / by more tapes / More in women's study than men

D) Women are more spiritually minded than men !

But because of their make up – Also more emotional – which makes them more susceptible to being Deceived!

A) Eve's Sin was doctrinal deception: She went against what God said – because she believed it would make her more like God

B) But even though she was deceived – she deliberately rebelled and then she led her husband into sin with her.

C) Her sin was Doctrinal deception – Adam sin was Weakness of the Will!

Started w/ Him being Passive – Leaving his wife alone –

A) Not leading – she was by the tree! Talking to a snake – He didn't intervene – PASSIVE

B) Eve ate and gave to her husband who was with her – Nearby ! Close

1) Adam could have done something!

C) 2nd Evidence of Adam's weakness of the will – Choice – God or Eve

1) He chose Eve !

Listen guys God doesn't want men to be Passive – in these things – wants us to Lead – { Picture of Christ and the Church

A) So He set up this order – Guys lead – women Submit

B) Two areas – in the Home – marriage and in the Church

C) Communicates the other 1/2 of the gospel – God made a way

1) Seen in how a Husband is to love his wife as Christ loved the Church

D) Church Submitted to God's plan

Illustration: Orchestras

At a meeting of the American Psychological Association, Jack Lipton, a psychologist at Union College, and R. Scott Bulione, a graduate student at Columbia University, presented their findings on how members of the various sections of 11 major symphony orchestras perceived each other.

The percussionists were viewed as insensitive, unintelligent, and hard-of-hearing, yet fun-loving. String players were seen as arrogant, stuffy, and non-athletic. Brass players were overwhelmingly described as being loud people. Woodwind players seemed to be held in the highest esteem, described as quiet and meticulous, though a bit egotistical.

Interesting findings, to say the least! With such widely divergent personalities and perceptions, how could an orchestra ever come together to make such wonderful music? The answer is simple: regardless of how those musicians view each other, they submit their feelings and biases to the leadership of the conductor. Under his guidance, they play beautiful music.

And so it is to be in the church. Our conductor is Jesus Christ, the head of the church. Under Christ's headship, both men and women are called to use their spiritual gifts to build up the church to God's glory. But the responsibilities and roles for men and women are different, just as the percussion and flutes in an orchestra play different parts. Men are to take leadership in the adult teaching. Women should use all of their gifts and abilities in every area of the church, except only where it usurps the authority that God intends for a man to have.

SAVED IN CHILD BIRTH

Take heed to yourself and to your teaching; hold to that, for by so doing you will save [the same word] both yourself and your hearers. (1 Timothy 4:16 RSV)

Timothy did not need to be saved in the sense of regeneration because he was already regenerated. Nor could his hearers be regenerated by Timothy's obedience to the faith, because that would be salvation by works. That cannot be the meaning here.

Here the word *saved* means "fulfilled," "to find significance." When used in that same sense, in this word about women, it makes perfect sense. Paul is saying to women, "The role God has given you is not the be the final, authoritative teachers in a church" (that is clear), "but that does not mean you cannot find great significance as Christian women. Your significance, your sense of fulfillment, will come as you bear children and they continue in faith and love and holiness, with modesty."