The Divine Order within the Church and the Home
1 Timothy 2:9-15 (NKJV)

- Remember, Paul is writing to Timothy, a young pastor who is overseeing the church in Ephesus.
- And he writes to help Timothy understand leadership, both in the home and the church.
- Here in Chapter 2, he writes to clear up some faulty thinking about the role of women in the church.
- Let’s go ahead and read verses 9 through 15 and get our bearings.

**Vs. 9-10**—“...in like manner also, that the women adorn themselves in modest apparel, with propriety and moderation, not with braided hair or gold or pearls or costly clothing, but, which is proper for women professing godliness, with good works.”

- Here is the heart of the father: that women have a desire to put into their spiritual life, more than the physical.

**Modesty: decent and orderly.**

- Meaning that her outward appearance would be decent and orderly, not extreme.
- Ephesus was a wealthy and very pagan culture; so getting caught up in trying to outdo one another to climb up the social ladder was probably a constant temptation.
- Now Paul is not saying, “Hey, only put into your spiritual life and you can just let yourself go in the physical department.”
- In speaking about the godly women in Proverbs, we read…

“We makes tapestry for herself; her clothing is fine linen and purple.”
Proverbs 31:22 (NKJV)

- Purple was expensive and reserved for royalty. Linen and tapestry are not something trashy.
- Again it’s keeping things in priority. King Lemuel’s mother taught him in Proverbs…
“Charm is deceitful and beauty is passing, but a woman who fears the Lord, she shall be praised.” Proverbs 31:30 (NKJV)

- Beauty can outwardly fade. No matter how much you spend on surgery or creams, gravity always wins.

“A woman who depends only on externals will soon run out of ammunition.” Warren Wiersbe

- And here Paul reminds us that the most important adornment is a godly life that is lived out in good works.
- Let your good works be the thing that outshines the jewelry you wear.
- Take some of that time and money you would spend on the outward appearance and invest it into your life spiritually.
- So that what flows from your life is a blessing to those around you and also, so you’re an example of a woman of faith to those around you.
- Peter would say it this way…

“Do not let your adornment be merely outward—arranging the hair, wearing gold, or putting on fine apparel—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. For in this manner, in former times, the holy women who trusted in God also adorned themselves, being submissive to their own husbands…” 1 Peter 3:3-5 (NKJV)

- Notice that it’s the hidden person of the heart that will manifest itself in a gentle and quiet spirit, not a loud and contentious spirit. That’s what blesses God, and will also bless the community of believers.
- Timothy must have had some problems with some of the women in the church for Paul to speak on this. Perhaps, a contentious group of ladies because notice Paul will remind Timothy of what type of behavior is fitting for the women. It’s what modesty looks like. Notice…

Vs. 11—“Let a woman learn in silence with all submission.”

- This word “silence” is a bummer translation. It can be better translated “in peace or in a peaceable manner.”
• You might remember when we were in Second Thessalonians, there was a group of people that were busybodies, always getting into people’s affairs and it was producing contention, and Paul reminded them…

“For we hear that there are some who walk among you in a disorderly manner, not working at all, but are busybodies. Now those who are such we command and exhort through our Lord Jesus Christ that they work in quietness and eat their own bread.” 2 Thessalonians 3:11-12 (NKJV)

• That word “quietness” here is the same word for silence in First Timothy 2:11.
• Much like what Peter was saying, a gentle and quiet spirit and not a contentious spirit is what will bless the Lord.
• He wasn’t saying they could never speak; he was saying there is too much speaking going on, and it is bringing contention.

“In the multitude of words sin is not lacking, but he who restrains his lips is wise.” Proverbs 10:19 (NKJV)

• That’s what Paul is getting at here.
• Many commentators agree that in church meetings the women would sit on one side and the men on the other, some of it was cultural, and some of it came from the Jewish background. If you go to the Wailing Wall today, you will still see there is a women’s side and a man’s side for them to go and pray.
• When the instruction was taking place and the women had a question, they would yell out across the worship center to their husband. It was very disruptive.
• So Paul is reminding them that it can be done at a later time, at home would be a good place for that. He was just putting some order in the meetings.
• Remember what Paul said to the church of Corinth…

“Let all things be done decently and in order.” 1 Corinthians 14:40 (NKJV)

• There seemed to be a group of ladies that were outspoken and probably overstepping their boundaries, and Paul wants to remind everyone that even in their freedom there should be some order.
Notice here the word “submission.”
I know so many of us don’t like that word, but it’s not a bad word. It’s really not; it really just speaks of God’s divine order.

“Anyone who has served in the armed forces knows that 'rank' has to do with order and authority, not with value or ability. Just as an army would be in confusion if there were no levels of authority, so society would be in chaos without submission.” Warren Wiersbe

There is a great illustration of this in Matthew’s gospel…

“Now when Jesus had entered Capernaum, a centurion came to Him, pleading with Him, saying, ‘Lord, my servant is lying at home paralyzed, dreadfully tormented.’ And Jesus said to him, ‘I will come and heal him.’ The centurion answered and said, ‘Lord, I am not worthy that You should come under my roof. But only speak a word, and my servant will be healed. For I also am a man under authority, having soldiers under me. And I say to this one, ‘Go,’ and he goes; and to another, ‘Come,’ and he comes; and to my servant, ‘Do this,’ and he does it.’ When Jesus heard it, He marveled, and said to those who followed, ‘Assuredly, I say to you, I have not found such great faith, not even in Israel!’” Matthew 8:5-10 (NKJV)

Jesus here points out how amazing his faith was, a faith that He had not seen anywhere in all of Israel.

And it came from a Roman soldier, not a rabbi or a student of the Word, but a Roman soldier.

Not only did he understand the power of Christ, but also he totally understood how authority worked.

And notice, Jesus did not say, “Dude that authority thing, you can toss that out. That’s not how I work; that’s not something we do in the kingdom.” He totally authenticated it.

And based on authority and his faith, Jesus spoke healing without ever seeing his servant. Notice…

“Then Jesus said to the centurion, ‘Go your way; and as you have believed, so let it be done for you.’ And his servant was healed that same hour.” Matthew 8:13 (NKJV)
• Authority is something we all understand. Remember, it’s not based on intelligence, or personality, or superiority, but order.
• That’s why Paul goes on and says…

Vs. 12—“And I do not permit a woman to teach or to have authority over a man, but to be in silence.”

• Notice the words “authority” and “teach,” meaning that a woman is not to have authority over a man in the ministry of teaching.
• Now, that does not mean that women can’t teach or won’t ever be given the gift of teaching.
• We know that Joel prophesied about women teaching and Peter would re-speak of women prophesying in the New Testament church.

“And it shall come to pass in the last days, says God, that I will pour out of My Spirit on all flesh; your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, your young men shall see visions, your old men shall dream dreams.” Acts 2:17 (NKJV)

• We are also told in Titus that the older women are to teach the younger women.

“But as for you, speak the things which are proper for sound doctrine: that the older men be sober, reverent, temperate, sound in faith, in love, in patience; the older women likewise, that they be reverent in behavior, not slanderers, not given to much wine, teachers of good things—that they admonish the young women to love their husbands, to love their children, to be discreet, chaste, homemakers, good, obedient to their own husbands, that the word of God may not be blasphemed.” Titus 2:1-5 (NKJV)

• We also know that in Acts 18 Aquila and Priscilla took Apollos aside and instructed him about the Holy Spirit things he had not yet heard or understood.

“Now a certain Jew named Apollos, born at Alexandria, an eloquent man and mighty in the Scriptures, came to Ephesus. This man had been instructed in the way of the Lord; and being fervent in spirit, he spoke and taught accurately the things of the Lord, though he knew only the baptism of John. So he began to speak boldly in the synagogue. When Aquila and Priscilla heard him, they
took him aside and explained to him the way of God more accurately.” Acts 18:24-26 (NKJV)

- Priscilla did this with her husband, Aquila. She didn’t do it alone, in speaking to Apollos, who was a pastor/teacher; she did it with her husband.

I can remember in some of the earlier days of ministry when I was young pastor. There was a woman in our ministry that always thought it was good to exhort me before and after church. She called me a few times after church to let me know that she didn’t like some of the decisions that I was making. I finally told her I would not talk to her any longer without her husband. I thought maybe if he was in the room, he could call her out a bit on way she spoke to me. It worked. She never met with me again. I think her husband finally shut it down.

- We also know that Timothy’s mother and grandmother instructed young Timothy in the Word of God in his home.
- For you mothers, don’t forsake the flock at home for the flock at church. God has given us some sheep to tend to at home, and we only get one shot and then they’re gone.
- So, make sure you have invested in them so that they have a good foundation before they leave.

And we have a lot of women on our staff, more than half of our staff is women. Some women minister in our youth ministry, children’s ministry, women’s ministry, hospitality ministry, and some in our administrative staff. The ministry would be a mess if we didn’t have many of the women leading as they do, but all of them are under authority as they come under a pastor for protection and guidance.

- There is a divine order that has been put in place for both the men and the women to protect and to keep balance within the church.
- When we are walking properly in this, it’s a beautiful thing, not a limiting thing. It’s a protective thing, not a subservient thing.
- Paul will even go back to Genesis to remind us of God’s divine order of things.
Vs. 13-14—“For Adam was formed first, then Eve. And Adam was not deceived, but the woman being deceived, fell into transgression.”

- Paul will give two examples here from the creation account to help us understand His divine order.
- Adam was formed first, then Eve; that was not by mistake, but planned in the heart of God.
- Adam would be made first, and then Eve would actually be taken from Adam and formed second.
- The key here is that there is an order from the beginning. The order was not because of sin, it was before sin. Sin had nothing to do with the order.
- This was God’s plan from the beginning; He was establishing authority and order.
- Later in Genesis, we are reminded of what took place to threaten this order. It’s what brings us to the second example. Remember what the Lord said to Eve after her sin…

“And the Lord God said to the woman, “What is this you have done?” The woman said, “The serpent deceived me, and I ate.” Genesis 3:13 (NKJV)

- Now some people believe she was blaming the serpent, the devil.
- And she probably was to some degree, but according to Paul here in First Timothy, she is being very honest. That’s exactly what happened—she was deceived by Satan and fell into transgression.
- She chose to eat of the fruit of the tree that God had told them both to stay away from.
- What was the deception? She believed the lie of Satan instead of the truth of God. Remember what God had told Adam and Eve? If you eat of the tree that’s in the middle of the garden, you will surely die. That was the truth.
- In Genesis 3, we read the lie that Satan would speak…

“And then the serpent said to the woman, ‘You will not surely die. For God knows that in the day you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil.’ So when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, that it was pleasant to the eyes, and a tree desirable to make one wise,
she took of its fruit and ate. She also gave to her husband with her, and he ate.” Genesis 3:4-6 (NKJV)

- Notice the lie, you will not surely die, and then the word of deception, God knows if you eat of it then your eyes will be open and you will be like God.
- In other words, God is holding out on you. If you eat of the fruit of this tree, you will be like God. You will be better; you will be greater.
- And the deception caused her to believe that the fruit would make her wise and she ate, and then she gave some to her husband, dipped in chocolate. Just kidding!
- Have you ever noticed the man didn’t ask any questions? He just took the fruit and ate. He did it with his eyes wide open. I have a suspicion that he knew exactly what this fruit looked like.
- He knew this was the forbidden fruit.
- If God tells you that if you eat of this particular fruit, then you would die. I guarantee you that you would discern that one fruit among all the other ones.
- But he just popped that baby in his mouth and ate it!
- The woman was deceived, but Adam willingly, with understanding of the fruit, disobeyed God.
- And from that moment on, there were relational issues.

“Because Adam rejected the God given order, he listened to his wife, disobeyed God, and brought sin and death into the world. The submission of wives to their own husbands is a part of the original creation. The disorder we have in society today results from a violation of that God given order.” Warren Wiersbe

- Later we would read about the effects of that sin, not just for Eve, but also for all women.

“To the woman He said: ‘I will greatly multiply your sorrow and your conception; in pain you shall bring forth children; your desire shall be for your husband, and he shall rule over you.’” Genesis 3:16 (NKJV)

- This statement “Your desire shall be for your husband and he shall rule over you” helps put perspective on our text today.
“This same word for desire is used in Genesis 4:7 of the desire of sin to master over Cain. Because of the curse, Eve would have to fight a desire to master her husband, a desire that works against God's ordained order for the home. The principle of Adam's headship as a husband was established before the fall (see Genesis 2:18 and 2:22). Now the curse on Eve makes it much harder for her to submit and flow with God's institution of male headship in the home. As a result of the fall, man no longer rules easily; he must fight from his headship. Sin has corrupted both the willing submission of the wife and the loving headship of the husband.” David Guzik

- Let’s finish up with this; it’s a great way to finish…

Vs. 15—“Nevertheless she will be saved in childbearing if they continue in faith, love, and holiness, with self-control.”

- Remember, God chose the womb of a woman to birth the Messiah, the one who would redeem both the women and the men.
- Ladies, that’s something to boast about. It was the womb of a woman that brought the birth of the Messiah, the one who would redeem all of mankind.

“The summary is this: Don't blame women for the fall of the human race; the Bible doesn't. Instead, thank women for bringing the Messiah to us.” David Guzik