



Gender Roles and Identity

What the Bible Says About Men and Women – and Why It Matters

Lesson 10 – Gender Reflects the Image
of God in Christian Community – Part 4

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Spirit of God



Spirit of God lead us
Lead us in truth
Show us your way
Teach us to walk
in you path
Father above teach us
Teach us to pray
Help us to say
Your will be done
in our lives
To the glory of God
O living word
Live in us now
Show forth your glory
and power
Your will be done
in our lives



Three Basic Principles to Interpret Scripture

1. Figure out what Scripture meant to the original readers.

- Historical and literary context

2. Let the Bible explain itself.

- Inspiration, Inerrancy, Authorial Intent
- Exegesis: Genre, Word Meaning, Grammar, Syntax
- Biblical Context: Immediate paragraph > chapter > book > whole Bible. (Interpreting a verse in light of the whole canon of scripture)

3. Figure out how I can obey it.

- Any time I ask, “Did God really say...” (Gen. 3:1) to wriggle out of obedience, I actively participate in Satan’s tactics and in Adam and Eve’s sin, elevating my own will over God’s.



Difficult Passages

Limitations on Women

Speaking and Teaching in Assemblies

- 1 Corth. 14:34-35
- 1 Timothy 2:8-15



Difficult Passages

1 Corth. 14:34-35

As in all the churches of the saints, ³⁴ the women should **keep silent** in the churches. For they are not permitted to **speak**, but should be in **submission**, as the Law also says. ³⁵ If there is anything they desire to learn, let them ask their husbands at home. For it is shameful for a woman to speak in church.

A woman with long dark hair in a braid, wearing a light blue button-down shirt, is shown from the chest up. She has a wide-eyed, shocked expression and is covering her mouth with both hands. The background is plain white.

Q&A: What's with women having to be silent in church in 1 Corinthians 14?

Summary of 1Corth 14

- Paul says tongue-speakers should be silent, **if** it is untranslated, **because** it does not build-up.
- Paul says prophets should be silent, **if** another prophet starts, **because** everyone must be instructed and encouraged.
- Paul says women asking questions should be silent, **if** the questions are relative to judging prophecies or the truth of what is said, **because** it violates the Old Testament principle of **submission to headship (authority)**.
- The context of all is maintaining order in assemblies (vs 40).
- Paul calls all of this “the command of the Lord” (vs 37) and as such are guiding principles for all churches.

Difficult Passages

1 Tim. 2:8-15



⁸ I desire then that in every place the men should pray, lifting holy hands without anger or quarreling; ⁹ likewise also that women should adorn themselves in respectable apparel, with modesty and self-control, not with braided hair and gold or pearls or costly attire, ¹⁰ but with what is proper for women who profess godliness—with good works.

Difficult Passages

1 Tim. 2:8-15



¹¹ Let a woman learn quietly with all submissiveness.

¹² I do not permit a woman to teach or to exercise authority over a man; rather, she is to remain quiet.

¹³ For Adam was formed first, then Eve; ¹⁴ and Adam was not deceived, but the woman was deceived and became a transgressor. ¹⁵ Yet she will be saved through childbearing—if they continue in faith and love and holiness, with self-control.



1 Tim. – Instruction for Assembly

- 1 Tim. 2:8-10
 - Men and women receive guidance for prayer in the gathered church
- 1 Tim. 2:11-12
 - Paul tells women HOW to learn and what NOT to do in the gathered church
- 1 Tim. 2:13-15
 - Paul explains the WHY of versus 11-12 and highlights the role that only men can perform

1 Tim. 2:8-10

- Context: God wants all people to be saved and come to the knowledge of the truth (vs 4). Therefore:
 - Men should join in prayer leaving anger and argument behind (vs 8)
 - Women in assembly should dress properly (vs 9-10)
 - Modestly and Sensibly
 - Not elaborate hairstyles or expensive jewelry or clothing
 - What is proper for worshiping God – with good works
 - Not **IF** women should pray, but **HOW** they should pray (I Corth. 11)



1 Tim. 2:11-12

- How women should learn in the assembly
 - In quietness
 - *Hesychia* = "quietness" = *peacefull*
 - Not *sigao* – "silent" (1 Corth. 14)
 - In full submission
 - Under authority or headship
 - Don't miss the point: They are to learn.
 - Traditions of Judaism and the secular world forbade women to learn and considered them unfit for learning



1 Tim. 2:11-12

- What women should not do in the assembly
 - Teach or (and) assume authority over a man
 - We have already seen examples of women teaching; what kind of teaching is being restricted here?
 - “Teach” – *didaskein* - 2 Tim 1:5; Acts 18:26



1 Tim. 2:11-12

- What women should not do in the assembly
 - Teach or (and) assume authority over a man
 - We have already seen examples of women teaching; what kind of teaching is being restricted here?
 - “Authority” – *Authenteo* –
 - Not used elsewhere in scripture and rarely in literature.
 - The normal Greek word for authority is *exousia* – designated jurisdiction; delegated power; conferred authority. (1 Corth. 8:9; 9:4-6; 9:18; 11:10; 15:24-28)
 - Originally “kin murderer”; later “master” or “dominate”

1 Tim. 2:11-12

- What women should not do in the assembly
 - Teach or (and) assume authority over a man
 - Inclusion or Hendiadys?
 - Hendiadys - the expression of a single idea by two words connected with "and," e.g., nice and warm, when one could be used to modify the other, as in nicely warm.
 - "or (and)" – *oude* – and not; not even
 - (Matt 6:20; Acts 4:18)



1 Tim. 2:11-12

- What women should not do in the assembly
 - Hendiadys - Authoritatively teach over a man – why?
 - Several examples of women teaching in scripture (Acts 18; 1 Corth. 11; 1 Tim. 1; Titus 2)
 - Women should have a sign of authority on their heads when they pray or prophesy (1 Corth. 11:10)
 - The created order of headship combined with freedom
 - If hendiadys, the prohibition is for a particular kind of authoritative teaching, i.e. dominant teaching or “teaching with teeth in it.”
 - Who provides that kind of teaching? (Titus 1:9-11)