



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 5

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. 11:2-16
- 1 Corth. 14:34-35
- 1 Timothy 2:11-15



Summary of Difficult Passages

- 1 Corth 11:2-16 – Paul says there is an order of **headship** and that **when** women pray or prophesy in the assembly, they are to demonstrate that they are under **authority** (have a sign of authority on their head in that cultural tradition)
- 1 Corth. 14:34-35 - 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 would violate the Law of Moses principle of **submission to headship (authority)**.
- 1 Tim. 2:11-15 – Paul says women are not to **teach and have authority** over a man (**authoritative teaching**, i.e. dominant teaching or “teaching with teeth in it.”)

Difficult Passages

1 Tim. 2:11-15

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. 2:11-12

- The Message

11-12 I don't let women **take over and tell the men what to do.** They should study to be quiet and obedient along with everyone else.

- The Voice

11 It's best if a woman learns quietly and orderly in complete **submission.**

12 Now, Timothy, it's not my habit to allow women to **teach in a way that wrenches authority from a man.** As I said, it's best if a woman learns quietly and orderly.

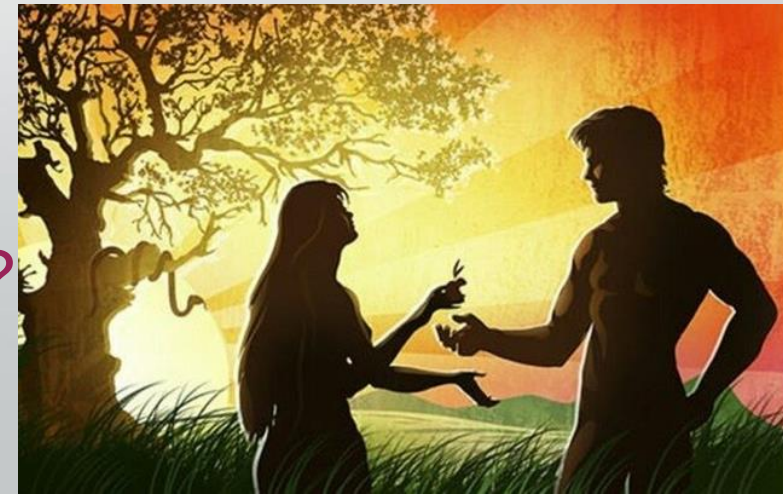
1 Tim. 2:13-14

- Why women should not teach authoritatively in the assembly
 - God created man first, not women
 - The universality of the created order
 - Principle of **headship**
 - The woman was deceived, not man
 - How was Eve deceived?
 - She believed Satan's lies (Gen. 3:1; 5)
 - How does that relate to a position of responsibility for discernment?



1 Tim. 2:15

- Women saved through childbearing?
 - Is Eve worse than Adam?
 - Rom. 5:12-18
 - Can women who don't have children still be saved?
 - Rom. 1:17
 - Do we participate in the working out of our salvation (sanctification)?
 - Phil 2:12-13
 - Is this referring to the birth of Christ?
 - Matt. 1:18-23



Ruth Rucker

- On Role of Women in Church



Some Shepherding Affirmations and Denials

- **We affirm** that the sole authority within the Church is the Risen Lord Jesus (Eph. 5:23).
- **We affirm** that the visible authority of Jesus within the Church structure is represented by a group of elders (1 Tim. 3:4-5). It is the responsibility of these elders to give authoritative teaching and guard the teaching of truth in the church by rebuking those who contradict it (Tit. 1:9).



Some Shepherding Affirmations and Denials

- We affirm that the position of elder in the church is to be limited to men (1 Tim. 3:2).
- We affirm that other instances of authoritative teaching, such as regular preaching, are also limited to men (2 Tim. 4:2-5, 1 Tim. 2:12-13).

