

Keeping our Eyes on the Goal (The Goal is Love)

1 Timothy 2:13-15

vs. 13, Adam was formed first, then Eve.

Remember:

Genesis 2:20 but for the man no helper was found corresponding to him.

Helper - ezer (עֲזָרָה) / Corresponding - kenegdo (כְּנֶגְדּוֹ)
Shield Same as / Opposite

Genesis 1:28 God blessed them, and God said to them, “Be fruitful, multiply, fill the earth, and subdue it.

1 Corinthians 11:8-9 For man did not come from woman, but woman came from man. 9 Neither was man created for the sake of woman, but woman for the sake of man.

Meaning: the woman can accomplish what the man needs in order to achieve the blessing God has put in front of both of them.

The opposite is also true, the woman cannot achieve it apart from the man.

The man and woman are created equally in the image of God, and equally given a responsibility by God to exercise stewardship over creation.

- Stewarding Creation
- Nurturing Children

Both are a mutually cooperative shared tasks.

There is no hierarchy of unequal relationship of authority between the two.

It is beyond evident that first does not mean priority, leader, or decision maker.

There is a lot of talk concerning “creation order”.

“Paul focuses on the serpent who approached and deceived Eve, not Adam. [So doing he] subverted the pattern of male leadership and interacted only with Eve during the temptation. Eve took the initiative in responding to the serpent, and Adam let her do so. Thus, the appeal to Genesis 3 reminds us of what happens when God’s ordained pattern is undermined.” ~Tom Schreiner, Women in the Church, ch. 6

The problem

- The Genesis text does not support this conjecture.
- 1 Timothy does not support this conjecture.
- Nothing suggests that Eve stepped out of her “God ordained” rank / place and was deceived because she side stepped Adam.

Once again, remember...

The serpent was not tempting Eve to subvert Adam’s authority, but to convince Eve that God was withholding.

1 John 2:16-17 For everything in the world—the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride in one’s possessions—is not from the Father, but is from the world. 17 And the world with its lust is passing away, but the one who does the will of God remains forever.

- The need for more.
- The need for comparative beauty. (This _____ makes life more attractive).
- The need for independent knowledge. (Like God, but without God).

The flesh, the world, and the enemy will continuously tempt us to take for ourselves what God desires to give to us as a gift of his love.

The great unraveling (Genesis 3:7-22).

- Personal internal unraveling in the human person.
- Relational unraveling...
 - between humanity and God.
 - between the man and the woman.
 - between humanity and creation.
- Ultimately leading to the experience of death.

This was Eve and Adam rebelling!

Not Eve stepping outside of “well who makes the final decision”.

vs. 14, And Adam was not deceived, but the woman was deceived and transgressed.

2 Corinthians 11:3 But I fear that, as the serpent deceived Eve by his cunning, your minds may be seduced from a sincere and pure devotion to Christ.

Genesis 2:15-17 The Lord God took the man and placed him in the garden of Eden to work it and watch over it. **16** And the Lord God commanded the man, “You are free to eat from any tree of the garden, **17** but you must not eat from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, for on the day you eat from it, you will certainly die.”

The human (Adam) received the instructions concerning the tree of the knowledge of good and evil before the woman was formed out of the man.

Could this be why the serpent targeted the woman?

Had the woman received God’s instruction via Adam or directly from God?

Paul may be referring to the specifics of Eve’s knowledge and resolve concerning God’s instructions.

- Eve was deceived and therefore sinned.
- Adam acted in direct rebellion to the words of God and therefore sinned.

Reminder: What is the context? What is happening among the women in Ephesus?

The women of Ephesus are being deceived by the false teaching.

But there is more...

Everyone receiving and hearing Paul’s words will reflect on Genesis 2.

What have we learned from Genesis 2? Once again 1 Corinthians 11:8-9

- Eve’s existence and purpose are intricately tied with Adam as her partner (wife and husband).

Context?

Much of the philosophy of the Artemis cult was that women did not need men.

- Eve faces the temptation alone, even though Adam is right there.

The Ephesian women are be confronted because they aren’t showing respect, they aren’t posturing themselves as learners, they aren’t seeing the detrimental realities of “all talk and no depth”.

If they had only practiced confession...

Can we agree...?

This serpent is wack!

This is what God has said.

Can we agree, God is trustworthy?

One more thing...

Ephesus prided themselves in the order of creation. It was a goddess-first context which emphasized preeminence and autonomy.

- Artemis is first. She was born first and then helped deliver her brother Apollo.
- Jesus is “the image of the invisible God, the firstborn over all creation.” **Colossians 1:15** Jesus is not a created being.

- The story of Jesus doesn't parallel the creation story of Artemis. So Paul uses humanity as his example. Adam was created from the dust and he was first. (And yet, there is more to Jesus...)

Independent isolation or Communal clarity

Question: In what ways and in what areas of your life do you find yourself isolating? Who has God put into your life that you can take a step of trust and invite into your particular situation? When making decisions what is the frequency and quality of welcoming communal clarity into your process?

These women are not embracing the beautiful God given gift of an *ezer kenegdo*.

- They are dressing without modesty and care for all of their brothers and sisters (vs. 9).
- They are being disruptive and unteachable (vs. 11-12).
- They are usurping or domineering / assuming control over the men (rather than being willing to listen and learn from them (vs. 12).
- They are opening themselves up to further deception (vs. 13-14).

vs. 15, But she will be saved through childbearing,

1 Corinthians 7:8 I say to the unmarried and to widows: It is good for them if they remain as I am.

Saved -> Paul has redemption, renewal, salvation in mind when using this term. He repeatedly uses this term and each time it means the same thing.

1:15 This saying is trustworthy and deserving of full acceptance: "Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners" — and I am the worst of them.

2:3-4 This is good, and it pleases God our Savior, **4** who wants everyone to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth.

4:16 Pay close attention to your life and your teaching; persevere in these things, for in doing this you will save both yourself and your hearers.

To experience salvation one must be a person of faith, love, holiness, and good sense [modesty / *sōphrosynē* (σωφροσύνης)].

Three possibilities

1. Women will be saved through the childbearing of Mother Mary, the daughter of Eve.
2. A very specific promise is made to these specific women in Ephesus for protection in child birth. Saved = physical preservation.
3. Paul is redirecting the misguided women in Ephesus. Leave your old way of thinking (false teaching). Stop denying marriage. For those who are married, stop avoiding sexual relations with your husband. Grow in trust for God in the realities of your human bodies. For women it often includes childbirth.

Context... Who is the Savior? Is it Artemis? Or, is it Jesus?

Jesus is the Messiah sent by God in the flesh. Jesus is the means of salvation, not Artemis.

The seed has come. The birth of Jesus has inaugurated redemption!

Jesus is better.

Because of Jesus there is an even more important kind of safety for women (which has taken place through a particular birth) and it is salvation found in embracing Jesus with faith, love, holiness, and self control.

Question: In what ways are we as Jesus people going to please God and provide the greatest credibility for the good news of Jesus?