



# SUNDAY EVENING

## AT BETHANY BAPTIST CHURCH

**Title:** What Paul Really Said About Women in the Church

**Passage:** 1 Timothy 2:11-15

**Speaker:** Pastor Dan Preston

**Introduction:** When it comes to biblical teaching on the role of women in the church, there is danger on every side. We are not here to win arguments or fight cultural battles, but to hear God's Word and submit ourselves to it. This passage has stirred controversy, clashed with modern expectations, and been distorted by personal preference, yet it remains the revealed mind of the Holy Spirit. Some of its words are difficult and some of its truths confront us, but God's Word is good and His order is loving. If we are to understand what Paul truly says here, we must come not with outrage or prejudice, but with humble hearts ready to be corrected and shaped by Scripture.

### I. To Learn: God's Word Lifts Women Up, Not Pushes Them Down (Verse 11)

If you want strong homes, you should want strong women strong in Scripture, strong in prayer, strong in doctrine. A man threatened by a godly woman's maturity is not protecting God's order, he is protecting his ego.

Silence does not mean speechlessness, it means a quiet, receptive, teachable spirit. This is not a women-only command it is the posture God requires of all who sit under His Word.

*"But Paul said, I am a man which am a Jew of Tarsus, a city in Cilicia, a citizen of no mean city: and, I beseech thee, suffer me to speak unto the people. And when he had given him license, Paul stood on the stairs, and*



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*beckoned with the hand unto the people. And when there was made a great silence, he spake unto them in the Hebrew tongue, saying, Men, brethren, and fathers, hear ye my defense which I make now unto you. (And when they heard that he spake in the Hebrew tongue to them, they kept the more silence: and he saith,)" (Acts 21:39-22:2)*

### **II. To Submit: Submission is Not Inferiority, It Is Christlikeness (Verse 11)**

*"Wives, submit yourselves unto your own husbands, as unto the Lord."  
(Ephesians 5:22)*

*"...as the church is subject unto Christ, so let the wives be to their own husbands in every thing." (Ephesians 5:24)*

The Bible does not speak of partial or grudging submission. It calls for all subjection because anything less reserves the right to rebel.

God does not call women to submit to chaos. He calls His church to submit to order under gentle, qualified, servant leadership.

Submission does not mean inferior and it never involves coercion. It is willing obedience to God's will for God's glory.

Biblical submission is not degradation; it is discipleship. It is not the loss of worth; it is the surrender of pride.

### **III. But Not to Preach: What Paul Forbids and What He Does Not (Verse 12)**

This passage does not forbid women from teaching altogether. Scripture commands mutual instruction and gives clear examples of women teaching truth.

The restriction is not that women submit to men generally. It is that the authoritative teaching office in the gathered church is reserved for qualified and ordained men.



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Biblical limitation is not oppression. God orders His church as He orders everything else, for His glory and our good.

#### **IV. The Created Order: Why Paul Goes Back to Genesis (Verses 13-14)**

- A. Order is not a value statement, it is a design statement.

We live in a world that treats any difference as discrimination. But Scripture treats difference as design.

Women, the Bible is not trying to shrink you. It calls you to flourish within God's good order without bitterness or resentment and without measuring your worth by another role.

Men, this is not a badge to boast in but a responsibility to answer for. Headship is never permission to dominate; it is a call to serve.

- B. Paul is not insulting women; he is warning the church.

Paul is pointing the church back to Genesis to show what happens when God's order is ignored and leadership becomes passive.

Eve was deceived through twisted truth and false wisdom, but Adam sinned with full knowledge and was held accountable by God.

The fall teaches us how spiritual disorder spreads. Deception is powerful, passivity is deadly, and rejecting God's design leads to transgression.

#### **V. Saved Through Childbearing: Hope At The End of A Hard Passage (Verse 15)**

*"For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: Not of works, lest any man should boast." (Ephesians 2:8-9)*



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*“And I will put enmity between thee and the woman, and between thy seed and her seed; it shall bruise thy head, and thou shalt bruise his heel.”  
(Genesis 3:15)*

The Greek text speaks of childbearing, pointing back to the promise of Genesis that salvation would come through the seed of the woman.

He brought the Redeemer of the world through the womb of a woman.

Women, like men, are saved by Christ. And that salvation shows itself in persevering faith, love, holiness, and self-control.

**Conclusion:** What do we do with a passage like this? We don't deny it or weaponize it. We believe it, submit to it, and let it produce holiness. For men, this is not permission to dominate, but a call to sacrificial, humble, and accountable leadership before God. For women, this is not a statement of inferiority, but a call to deep learning, joyful godliness, and faithful obedience, without diminishing your worth or your calling in Christ.

