

Intro: Open Bibles to **1 Timothy 3. Haha!** "*Lectio Continua*". Had a few people this week ask me how I landed on that topic/text. *How'd you decide to preach on that?* We believe the Bible is the very Word of God. Inspired (God's breath). Inerrant. Clear (enough). Complete. Sufficient. Fully Authoritative/Trustworthy. Written by men **carried along by the Holy Spirit. Sola Scriptura. Scripture Alone is our ultimate and final authority. Interpret Scripture w/ Scripture. 2 Peter 3:15-18:** "Paul's writings can be difficult & twisted, as they do the other Scriptures."

Thesis: "Faithful Women live and do ministry with respect."

My goal is to walk through this text for the first 15-20 min, then clarify/explain next 15-20min.

I. Live with Respect (9-10)

- A. Adorn yourself with respectable apparel, modesty, self-control
- B. Not elaborate hair styles, jewelry or clothes. (Drawing attention to yourself)
- C. Your desire should be to live godly, putting God back at the center. Good Works.
- D. *Glory of God and Good of Others.* That's what defines your life. Not lifestyle/status.

ILLUSTRATION: **Ballfield.** Apparently to be "in" I need a truck; wife needs a Tahoe/Suburban.

APPLICATION: Needing the car, phone, clothes, season's style, hair color, following, influence.

Paige Brown: "Does this go with my temple-ness?" TGC.

II. Learn with Respect (11-14)

- A. Learn - this was actually a big deal. Culturally contradicting. Paul wasn't afraid of culture.
- B. quietly w/ submissiveness. v2:2 (Quiet men too). Self-control. Tranquil/Peaceable.
- C. "I do not permit". He's an apostle and inspired writer of Scripture. Not advice or opinion.
- D. A woman to teach or exercise authority over a man. "teach with authority". Preaching.
- E. This is in context of the Church. Not Government. Work. World. Generic. Family/Church.
- F. Why? Adam made first. Eve from Adam. (Gen.1-2). Woman deceived, sinned. Adam failed his leadership role. Abrogated (forfeited). He was w/ her. "Listened to the woman"
- G. This is a cross-cultural argument. Not based on history, preference, majority, culture. Order of creation/fall. Reasonable argument/evidence. Just b/c Adam failed, doesn't mean it was a bad plan. Redemption is God restoring order. So in **Christian Home** and the **Kingdom (Church)**, He's restoring the Imago Dei - including roles of Men/Women.

ILLUSTRATION: **Mary Beth McGreevy** - "Women can do almost everything a man can do."

APPLICATION: This has nothing to do with value, dignity, abilities, gifting, status, equality, but about the design of God to bring about His glory in the Home and Church. **Displaying Christ.**

The Trinity is complimentary. They are unified, 3-in-1. Equal in nature, different roles.

III. Continue in Faith (15)

- A. *She will be saved through childbearing.* (Eve will be saved. Adam???) **Gen. 3:15.** The *proto-euangelion.* First promise of redemption was made about the woman's offspring.
- B. "If **they** continue" - Greek verbs/nouns. Find the most recent matching noun. FP (v.10).
- C. "*Women who profess godliness... [should] continue in faith, love and self-control.*"

APPLICATION: Equally included in the Kingdom. Valued. Taught. Noticed. Cared for. Respect.

There are things women can do that men can't. Rewarding. Awesome. Difficult. Privilege.

Clarify/Explain: Questions/Objections/Confusion:

- **"Some of the best pastors I know are women."** Fair. For two reasons. General Gifting/ Personality/Disposition. Women generally are more **Motherly**. Pastoring is motherly at times. Caring. Nurturing. Concern. Gentleness. Comforting. Not the only part, but this why men have to be told and reminded to have these same traits. And why it's a qualification.
- **"Majority of people in the Church are Women."** True. Doesn't mean its good or that we compromise our understanding and application of Scripture based on majority culture.
- **ILLUSTRATION: Elder in PCA Church.** All daughters. Strong-willed. Smart. Convinced him that that couldn't be what the Bible meant. Scripture didn't convince him. Women did.
- **"Men wrote the Bible."** Yep. But they were men chosen by God and carried along by H.S. And if you're going to argue that *Scripture* is not totally reliable & bias, then so is your faith. Because this is *Scripture, it has to mean something*. If our conclusion is that it no longer applies or that the writers got something wrong, we need to humble ourselves (Is.66:2).
- **"I genuinely felt the call of God and others confirmed that call."** In life there are 3 rules to follow in determining the Lord's will in your life: 1) You fell led to it/convinced 2) Other affirm that 3) It lines up and does not contradict what the Bible teaches. Fully convinced.
- **Culture. It was just like that back then.** Women had no place in society. Paul's argument is cross-cultural. But more than that, it was really until the last 100-150 years out of 1900 years, right around the same time as the feminist movement. Coincidence? Which culture are we talking about? The New Testament and Christianity recognized women's gifts/roles in ministry in a way that was completely counter-cultural. **Paul was not afraid to speak out against culture.** Arrested/Beaten numerously. **Jesus was not afraid of culture either.** Against culture. Against religiosity and assumptions of the time. 12 Disciples.
- **Well, I don't like it. I disagree. I don't see how that can be true.** If you follow a God who has to cater to your desires, understanding, abilities and culture, then that God is not God, you are. Or your culture. Your God has to be able to challenge, correct, teach, change you. **There are a lot of hard stuff in Scripture.** Consider others more important.
- **What about all the women in Scripture that played an important role in teaching, leading and prophesying?** Well, I'm glad you asked! ***PCA WOMEN IN MINISTRY STUDY REPORT***
 - *Miriam(Ex.15); Huldah(2Kings22); Hannah(1Sam2); Abigail(1Sam25); Deborah(Judge4-5); Esther; Women followed/supported Jesus's ministry (Luke8); Mary&Martha sat Jesus' feet to learn (Luke10); Titus 2; Phoebe a Deaconess (Rom.16); Priscilla taught Apollos(Acts18); Philip's 4 daughters prophesied (Acts21:9); Corinthian Women prophesy (11); Woman at the Well an evangelist sharing her testimony (John4); women stayed at the Cross faithfully when Jesus died and women were the first to witness and testify/tell about Jesus' resurrection (Matt.28; Mark16; Luke24; John20). Women were with the other disciples praying in the room when the Holy Spirit appeared(Acts1).* Joel says His Spirit was poured out on all flesh: men & women (Joel2/Acts 2).
 - **None of these examples have to do with women in the position of spiritual authority over men in the home or in the Church/congregation.** Gen.1:26-27. Equal image bearers w/ dominion over the world, but not the home or the church. Scripture is clear (enough).
 - **The Bible places a massive amount of weight on the testimony and word of women.** And yet, these same authors, apostles and JESUS, when there were plenty of opportunities to place just one qualified woman in a key culture-changing position of authoritative leadership, they don't. Not because they were intimidating or too influenced by culture. But b/c of God's design.
 - **Women do not have to submit to men generally.** Women in the church, don't have to submit to all men in the church generally. Wives only submit to their husbands, not all husbands. Everyone in home submits to head. Every in congregation submits to elders. **Men can learn from women!**
- **Throughout Bible the offices of Teaching with Authority has been reserved for men, called & approved by God, and recognized by the congregation.** In OT: Elder, Priest, King. In NT: Elder/ Bishop/Shepherd(Pastor; sacraments), Preacher, (Deacon-ish). *Creation order of Imago Dei and Roles of Men and Women in the Kingdom of God being restored. And all are to submit to their leadership and authority - not just the women.*

Men: We need to wake up, humble ourselves, repent & ask LORD to use us how He sees fit. Next week!

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