

1 Timothy 2:8–10 (ESV)

God calls men and women to a holy order in the church

INTRO:

- **In order to be thorough, I'm dividing this Message into two parts. I want to do it justice and be helpful to you, church. We will cover 8-10 today and 11-15 next Sunday.**
- Today and next Sunday we're going to be talking about something that we find both beautiful and joyful here at our church.
- Let me lay down a foundation of what we believe the Scriptures teach us

Men and women are created equally; both men and women are made in the image of God. Men are not better than women. Women are not better than men. Both are equal in their personhood, in their value. They both equally reflect the image of God.

We also believe and find joy in that God made men and women different, and that's more than just parts and plumbing. It's more than just a social constructs... We believe that God created something deep in the soul of a man and deep in the soul of a woman that is different and distinct, and that that is beautiful.

The theological word for this position is complementarianism, which means that man and woman are equal in the image of God, that they are different in the roles of the family and the church.

We believe that God created man to be a steward in the world; that He gave him a mission and a calling, and then God gave him a helper suited for him for companionship, to be a helper, a helper-that's the same word used in Psalms to talk about God. It's the same word used in the New Testament to talk about the Holy Spirit. So that word "helper" is not a term of belittlement; it's a term of honor.

His complement was a woman taken out of his side, not out of his head to rule over him, not out of his feet to be ruled by him, out of his side to walk by him as a helper. And we believe this was beautiful.

We also believe that sin has warped this. Man and woman are placed in a beautiful garden, and they're told to make the world look like this garden. Fill the earth and subdue it. Be fruitful and multiply. And the evil one comes in the form of a serpent, questioning God's authority, His character, and His word. And Eve is deceived by the serpent and disobeys God. And Adam, whom Genesis 3 says was with his wife while this was happening.

Adam abdicates his role of leadership and follows his wife rather than submitting to the Lord. And the Bible tells us that though Eve was deceived, Adam was responsible, and Adam's sin

brought the effect and stain and guilt of sin into the world, and this sin created immediately distance.

Such that this beautiful picture that God has made is no longer seen as beautiful, and it no longer works out in a beautiful way.

Sin broke the design, so we needed more than advice for things to be repaired.

Jesus came to redeem men and women, and He also established the church as the family of God, where that design is meant to be seen again.

The same Lord who was there in creation is now inspiring Paul to tell this household how holy order looks. That is where we are in 1 Timothy 2.

PRAY:

OPEN:

- When you hear “holy,” what comes to mind?
- The word ‘holy’ is used for men in verse 8 and ‘holiness’ for women in verse 15 (if they continue in faith and love and holiness)
- Some wrong ways people interpret ‘holy’
 - Boring. No fun, no parties, no joy. Life is one long rule.
 - Hypocritical. Holier than thou on Sunday. Living like the world on Monday.
 - Superior. I am holy and you are a mess. I am clean and you are not.
 - Antique. An heirloom in the attic. A relic. Not for today.
 - Abusive. A word that was supposed to mean godliness, used to control people instead.
- Paul does not mean any of those. Holy means set apart for God. In this text it looks like men who take responsibility without turning it into privilege, and women set apart for Him—not for show, and not to domineer, but for a holy order.

God calls men and women to a holy order in the church and the home.

1. Men take up holy responsibility, not privilege.

8 I desire then that in every place the men should pray, lifting holy hands without anger or quarreling;

- **This verse seems to address both apathy (passivity) and abuse of men**

- Abusive or domineering authority looks at authority as privilege. Authority and headship is not privilege but responsibility and when we do it biblically it is loving and always for the sake of good of others.
- Jaye's submission to Christ, to her role, then to me.
- My role is submit to Christ (lift up hands in surrender), submit to the role, die to self.
- Most of us have seen men lead (or not lead) in church and home in one of these two ways – apathetic (so women have to step up to lead) or abuse (men are harsh and take this passage out of context, using it for some sick privilege over women).
- Men can hold the same passages we hold and use them for their own glory.
- There are two ditches. Apathy, and abuse.
- Abuse does more harm.
- If you were dragged through that ditch, passages like this one may feel like a weapon, and that is understandable.
- The answer is not to jump to the other ditch, where men and women are interchangeable in every role.
- And the answer is not to leave the road.
- The answer is humble, responsible leadership. Equal in value. Different in role. Neither superior. The man who leads is the man who serves.

2. Women communicate holiness, not sensuality.

Vs 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,

- He's writing to women who profess godliness - They've embraced the gospel. Their sin and shame have been removed.
- They're followers of Jesus and he is calling them to walk in such a way that reflects that.
- One of the things going on with the new Roman woman is that she was starting to dress like the temple prostitutes. So you had married women walking around out in public looking like unmarried women who were sensual.
- He's saying the way you dress, communicates something about you,

- And ladies, if you dress in a way that only attracts a man to your body, you'll probably find a man who's only interested in that.
- But do I need to dress like an Amish now? No.
- My wife and some of her friends have had their colors done. A specialist tells them which colors actually suit them. I think that is good. Women want to look their best, and there is nothing unholy about that. The question is the motive. Are you dressing so the room will say, look how great she looks? Or are you stewarding the body and the life God gave you, and letting it say, this is a woman who loves Jesus?
- Paul is not against beauty. He is against an unholy message. He says let the message you communicate by what you wear be modest, self-controlled, and reflecting good works.
- Look your best. Just do not let “look at me” be the loudest thing you say. The world should be able to tell that you care for what God gave you, and that you belong to Him.

Vs 10 but with what is proper for women who profess godliness—with good works.

Good works: **Titus 2:3–5 (ESV)** **3** *Older women likewise are to be reverent in behavior, not slanderers or slaves to much wine. They are to teach what is good, 4 and so train the young women to love their husbands and children, 5 to be self-controlled, pure, working at home, kind, and submissive to their own husbands, that the word of God may not be reviled.*

- Women, you are queens of the universe. You are not inferior to anybody. You're not inferior to your husband, but God has called you to willfully choose to submit your life to Him to be His helper. That the Word of God may not be reviled, which is really what this is about.

CONCLUSION:

- The trinity: God is three persons, equal in deity, different in role yet One God. Talk about a holy order!
- Each is His own person, AND each is God (God the Father, God the Son, God the Spirit).
- Yet each has a different role within the Godhead – the Father did not come to die in our place- Jesus the son did, Christ is not the Helper who indwells the believer – The Spirit is.
- Then you see a beautiful holy order of submission – The Father sent the son, the son submits in the garden of Gethsemane, then after Jesus’ ascension, The Son sends the Spirit.

- If there is a holy order within the Godhead, then surely we are meant to reflect that, and when we do, it is beautiful and joyful.

QUESTIONS FOR GROUPS:

1. Where do you see the two ditches of male leadership (apathy or abuse/privilege) most clearly—in the church, in homes, or in your own heart—and what would humble, responsible leadership that looks more like Jesus actually require of you this week?
2. What message does your appearance (clothing, presentation, or overall life) most often communicate to others right now, and how can you steward what God has given you so that it points more to holiness and love for Jesus than to “look at me”?