

Theme: "Submission" is one of the most positive expressions of a believer's trust and faith in the goodness and wisdom of God, reflecting one of the defining characteristics of Christ's life and ministry. It is also one of the most difficult concepts for a Christian to embrace as it strikes at the heart of our foolish, rebellious desire for "independence" and puts us at odds with the world's definition of "equality."

Background and Introduction: The Christian's archaic views on "gender" put us at odds with the culture.

- I. Equal – but Different; Made in His Image
 - A. "Male and female He created them" (Genesis 1:27)
 1. Going against the flow
 - The landscape has changed around us
 2. Two genders
 - a. In the image of God
 - Sharing the same essence and identity!
 - b. With distinctive roles/strengths/weaknesses
 - B. Reflecting God's Nature and Order
 1. Seen in the Godhead
 - God in His Essence/Being- and in His activity
 2. Order is established in Creation
 - Man is formed to lead - Woman is formed as a "helpmate"
 3. Marred in the Fall
 - Created to lead – men will abdicate authority
 - Created to follow – women will usurp authority
 4. Renewed in Christ
 - C. Delighting in the Difference
 1. Allow the differences to stand in society
 - In our children and in our marriages
 2. Allow the differences to stand in worship
 - Special instructions for men/women
- II. Confronting the Culture (in Ephesus)
 - A. Let Them Learn! (11)
 1. A "positive" command/instruction
 - They may not be excluded from learning
 2. Restoring a woman's "place"
 - B. Like Everybody Else
 1. Quietly
 2. With all submissiveness
 - Viewed very positively in the NT
 - Luke 10:41, 42; Hebrews 12:9; James 4:7; Ephesians 1:22; 5:21-24
 3. Applicable to both men and women
- III. Clashing with the Culture (in North America)
 - A. The Cultural Distortion
 1. Submission means oppression!
 2. Why can't they teach?
 - B. The Church Distortions
 1. Dismiss the whole thing (Liberalism) (non-evangelical)
 - Scripture is bound by culture – so toss out both

2. Don't change anything (Literalism)
 - Absolutely NO teaching
3. It's just for Ephesus (Evangelical Feminism)
 - The culture just wasn't ready for women teachers
- C. Through godly submission (12)

NOTE: 1st - Context!!! Worship! Since the beginning of the chapter.
 2nd - Paul writes under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit!

 1. No teaching?
 - Learning? YES
 - Teaching? NO
 - a. "Some" teaching is permitted (Acts 18:26; Colossians 3:16; Acts 2:17, 18)
 - b. But not here, not this
 - Not in worship or in authoritative preaching
 2. No authority over a man
 - Closely connected to "preaching"

The instruction is...

IV. Rooted in Creation

- A. A Created Order (13)
 1. Adam 1st -The responsibility of the 1st born
 2. Then Eve - A perfect and necessary helpmate
- B. The Matter of Responsibility (14)
 1. Eve or Adam – who sinned?
 - Eve's deception
 - Adam's responsibility (Romans 5:14, 15)
 2. Maintaining God's order in the church
 - The men must lead!
- C. Through Childbirth??
 1. Why this example?
 - a. Ties directly to the themes of order, sin, salvation
 - 1) Rooting his argument in the order of creation
 - 2) Sin didn't change their roles
 - 3) Their "ransom" came through one who was "born of woman"
 - b. "Man" is born of woman. She is indispensable for man.
 2. What it doesn't mean
 - a. Salvation through bearing children
 - b. Not a church growth strategy!
 - c. Not "women will be saved through motherhood"
 3. What it could mean?

"The childbirth" – with reference to the birth of Christ

 - Ties well to creation order, fall, and salvation themes
 - Ties well to v.14 in addressing our sin
 - Ties well with woman's submission to God's order and plan

V. Faith to Submit

We must "continu[e] in faith, love, holiness, self-control", for they are the ongoing out-workings of the grace of salvation and the work of the Holy Spirit in us.