

INTRODUCTION

Last time, we considered our dear Lord Jesus Christ as our model for how to be in all subjection or submission to those God has placed over us. The Son of God came here to earth from heaven to do the will of God, which was for Him to die, giving His own life for the sake of sinners, so that we who believe in Him will be saved from the wrath of God to come. To die in our place, the Son of God became also the Son of Man. When He did that, taking on our humanity included a human will, which He had to keep in all subjection or submission to the divine will. This required much help from the Holy Spirit, so He prayed for that help, praying, "Not my will, but Thine be done." So, when we must submit ourselves to those whom God has placed over us, we can do nothing better than to pray as our Master prayed, "Thy will be done," and keep praying that prayer until it is answered with help from above, that we may keep ourselves in all subjection or submission even as our Lord Jesus has done.

So, having heard the command of Jesus by His apostle Paul, that, in the church, the women are to learn in silence with all subjection or submission, because they are not permitted to teach or have authority over a man; and having meditated on Jesus Christ as the model of how to bring our wills into all subjection, we now come to the place where the Bible explains to us why the women of the church must be in that silent submission, rather than sharing with men the work of teaching and of exercising authority.

TEXT

1 Timothy 2:11-14 Let a woman learn in silence with all submission. (12) And I do not permit a woman to teach or to have authority over a man, but to be in silence. (13) For Adam was formed first, then Eve. (14) And Adam was not deceived, but the woman being deceived, fell into transgression.

BODY

- I. The Word of God Gives Reasons for This Doctrine of Women Learning in Silence and Submission
 - A. APPLICATION - Right up front, let us praise our Lord Jesus for how He so kindly explains things to us
 1. just about the time our minds start to form the question, “why” or “why not,” our gentle Master tells us why or why not
 2. He does not owe us an explanation; we do not deserve an explanation; but He cares about us, and deals with us very graciously
 3. neither our Lord Jesus, nor His apostles, are hard taskmasters; instead, they are patient teachers
 - B. APPLICATION - Would you please observe here with me that what the Bible says makes sense. The instructions in the Scriptures are there for reasons that are logical.
 1. in today’s society, we are used to people
 - a) talking about how they just feel something is right;
 - b) or saying that every person should just do what he feels he needs to do;
 - c) or demanding approval of whatever a radical minority does; or
 - d) or treating popular sentiment as if it compels us to abandon all reasonable thought in favor of its temporary dogmas, which might be different from last year’s and next year’s decrees
 2. if that is hard for you to bear, stop here and take a refreshing drink and catch your breath;
 - a) the Holy Scriptures, as breathed out by the Holy Spirit, make sense; they are reasonable
 - b) in the Bible, God asserts something as true, or commands something as our duty; then offers compelling arguments proving the truth of what the Bible says

The word of God gives reasons for this doctrine of women learning in silence and submission

II. Two Reasons Are Given for the Two Parts of the Doctrine

- A. Two points have been made about what is not permitted in the church
 - 1. a woman to teach a man
 - 2. a woman to have authority over a man
- B. Now two reasons are given for why those two things are not permitted
 - 1. Adam was formed first, then Eve
 - 2. Adam was not deceived, but the woman, being deceived, was in the transgression
- C. As I understand it, each of these two reasons corresponds with one of the two things Paul does not permit
 - 1. our Lord's apostle does not permit a woman to have authority over a man in the church because Adam was formed first, then Eve
 - 2. our Lord's apostle does not permit a woman to teach a man in the church, because Adam was not deceived, but the woman, being deceived, was in the transgression
 - 3. that first one is what we're going to tackle today
 - 4. the second one, hopefully next week

The word of God gives reasons for this doctrine of women learning in silence and submission
Two reasons are given for the two parts of the doctrine

III. The Reason a Woman Is Not Permitted to Have Authority Over a Man Is From the Created Order

- A. Before getting into that, let us pause here for a moment to enjoy the fact that our Lord's apostle, Paul, so easily refers to the events of the creation of the world, as recorded in Genesis chapters 1-3 in the Bible
 - 1. these are events from about 6,000 years ago, or about 4,000 years ago when Paul was writing
 - 2. the Bible is the only historical record that goes back that far, and that gives the names of the first man and woman, Adam and Eve; so it is definitely that Bible, specifically Genesis chapters 2 and 3, to which Paul is referring
 - 3. as the Holy Spirit inspired Paul to write, he expressed confidence in the Bible's account of how our race came into being when the one true God made the first two human beings
 - 4. and he doesn't write like that is a point which needs proving among Christians; it is something he treats as already known and accepted among those to whom he is writing
 - 5. it reminds a person of "We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, and endowed by their creator..."
 - 6. Paul learned this from His Master & ours, the Lord Jesus Christ, Mt 19:3-6

- B. APPLICATION When there is a question of how men and women are to relate to one another, the way of our Lord Jesus and His apostles is to refer to the book of Genesis, especially the first chapters
1. Of course this is how the world should answer questions about such things, but at present that method is being rejected in our culture.
 2. But that method's rejection by our culture should not affect our thinking. The world can be depraved all around us; but although we are in the world, we are not of the world. If 6 billion people tell you 6 billion times that right is wrong and wrong is right, and a man might really be a woman and a woman might really be a man, or they both might be something in between, that doesn't make those nonsensical ideas true. What the Bible says is true, and at any point the propaganda of the world contradicts the bible, it is not the Bible that is wrong!
 3. Our thinking on all questions of how males and females relate to one another follows the pattern laid down by our Lord Jesus and His apostles: we look to the book of Genesis to see how things were in the beginning.
- C. The observation the apostle Paul makes here is that Adam was formed first, then Eve
1. which fact we can understand easily enough; Brother Dillon just read us that history
 2. but how that fact proves the point is harder to grasp
 3. "Adam was formed first, then Eve, so that's why the apostle does not permit a woman to have authority over a man." That does make sense, and is logically compelling; but I feel the need for more information on this

The word of God gives reasons for this doctrine of women learning in silence and submission

Two reasons are given for the two parts of the doctrine

The reason a woman is not permitted to have authority over a man is from the created order

- IV. More Help Understanding This Reason Is Available in Another Place in 1 Cor 11
- A. 1 Corinthians 11:8-10 For man is not from woman, but woman from man. (9) Nor was man created for the woman, but woman for the man. (10) For this reason the woman ought to have *a symbol of* authority [power] on *her* head...
 - B. The apostle in this place teaches that a woman in the church ought to have power on her head, meaning a symbol of authority on her head
 - 1. note that he is making essentially the same point we have in 1 Timothy: that the woman, being under authority, should not be acting in church as if she is in authority over the man
 - C. Paul gives two lines of explanation, verses 8 and 9. Those two lines are more information about what we read in today's 1 Timothy verse.
 - 1. Adam was formed first, then Eve
 - 2. man is not from woman, but woman from man
 - 3. man was not created for the woman, but woman for the man
 - D. Reading these three lines, the reasoning for the apostle's instruction becomes clearer in my mind
 - 1. when the church assembles for worship, the women of the church should not do anything that would indicate they are trying to be in authority over the men; an individual woman should not speak or act as if she were in authority over the man
 - 2. the reason for this is that when God created the first man and woman, Adam and Eve, from the very first He set them in an order
 - a) God made Adam, the man, first
 - b) then God made the woman from the man
 - c) God made the woman for the man, or, for the sake of the man
 - E. In the coming of Jesus Christ, God changed many things; but He did not change the created order He had established at creation
 - 1. Adam was made first, then Eve
 - 2. man is not from woman, but woman from man
 - 3. man was not created for the woman, but the woman for the man

The word of God gives reasons for this doctrine of women learning in silence and submission
Two reasons are given for the two parts of the doctrine

The reason a woman is not permitted to have authority over a man is from the created order
More help understanding this reason is available in 1 Corinthians 11

- V. Mention of This Reason Sends Us to a Mystery About Jesus Christ and the Church
- A. When you hear the words of today's verse, Adam was formed first, then Eve, and the words from 1 Corinthians 11, man is not from woman, but woman from man, do not let your mind go to any sort of prideful resentment; instead, let your mind run to the wondrous mystery hidden there for so long, but now revealed:
- Ephesians 5:28-32
1. as Adam was made first, then Eve; so Christ, the second Adam was made first, then the church
 2. as God caused Adam to go into an unusual kind of sleep; so Christ, on the cross, went into the sleep of death
 3. as God pierced Adam's side and brought out of him what He would use to make the woman; so Christ's side was pierced, and the water and blood by which God would make the church were brought out
 - a) water by which sinners are sanctified, cleansed from the filth of sin
 - b) blood by which sinners are redeemed, ransomed, freed from the power of sin and death
 4. as God woke Adam from his sleep; so God raised Jesus from death
 5. as God presented the woman to Adam; so the church is presented to Jesus Christ as a spotless bride
- B. We have no prideful resentment of how Christ was made first, then the church; of how Christ is to be in authority over us, and never the church in authority over Him. So let us have no prideful resentment of how Adam was made first, then Eve; of how the man is to be in authority, not the woman

CONCLUSION

Why is it, then, that women who fear God, the disciples of Jesus Christ, are commanded to learn with all submission? Why are they not permitted to exercise authority over a man? It is because God, when He created our race in Adam and Eve, assigned to the woman the subordinate place. For her to assume authority in the church, would be for her to leave that place, assigned her by God in creation. For a man to elevate a woman to authority in the church would be for him to leave the place assigned him by God in creation. This turning upside down the relationship between the man and the woman also would confuse the understanding of that profound mystery embedded in the creation of the woman, that the church was made from Jesus Christ and for Jesus Christ. Therefore, let the women of the church learn with all submission, because Adam was formed first, then Eve.

Paul doesn't first work to prove that the Bible's history of creation is true, then reason from it. He takes it as a matter already established that the Bible is true.

Thad - Call to Worship and Opening Prayer - Psalm 114:7-8

Dillon - Scripture Reading: Genesis 2:18 - 3:13

Roel - Congregational Prayer

Benediction: 2 Peter 3:18

Anna - Prelude

Anna - Trinity 421 "Rock of Ages"

Rita - Trinity 53 "Hallelujah, Praise Jehovah"

Allison - Trinity 700 "Trust and Obey"