

INTRODUCTION

“Who first seduc'd them to that foul revolt?”

In 1667 the poet John Milton posed that question about Adam's and Eve's first sin, in his epic poem *Paradise Lost*:

Who first seduc'd them to that foul revolt?

His answer was according to the Scriptures:

Th' infernal Serpent; he it was, whose guile...deceiv'd The Mother of Mankind

And when Eve had been deceived by the guile of the serpent, how did Adam come to sin, also? Again, Milton renders what the Bible says into poetic form:

...from the bough She gave him of that fair enticing Fruit
...he ~~scrupl'd not to eat~~ [ate] Against his better knowledge, not deceav'd,
~~But fondly overcome with Femal charm.~~

We are studying, in 1 Timothy chapter 2, the will of our Lord Jesus Christ for how we are to conduct ourselves when the church gathers for worship; when we pray for all men; when we hear the Word of God read and preached and taught.

As for the men, we come to pray not with wrath and disputing, but with holy hands lifted up to God together.

As for the women, you priceless sisters come to worship adorned not with an outward show of hair, jewelry, and clothes, but with an inward display of graces and good works.

When someone stands to teach from the Bible, the woman is not the one to speak, and is not the one to be in authority over the congregation. Instead, she learns in silence with all subjection. She is not permitted to teach or to exercise authority over the man.

But why is that? Why is she not allowed to have authority in the church? We learned last time that the woman is not permitted to exercise authority over the man because Adam was formed first, then Eve. 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. So, it is because Adam was formed first, then Eve, that the women of the church are to learn with all submission or subjection.

But why is the woman not permitted to speak in the church, to take a turn preaching and teaching the man does? Many female disciples of Jesus Christ are very learned, insightful, devout, caring, and gifted with a beautiful manner of speaking that communicates well with their listeners. Why are such women not allowed by the apostles to speak in the church, but required to learn in silence?

We find the answer today in the next verse in sequence as we study through 1 Timothy:

The woman was deceived.

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

The woman was deceived.

- I. That the Woman Was Deceived Is Indeed Our True History - Genesis 3:13
 - A. Genesis 3:13 And the LORD God said to the woman, "What is this you have done?" The woman said, "The serpent **deceived me**, and I ate."
 - B. Eve testified to this herself
 - C. Here is an example of how history is to be used
 1. the Bible is rightly considered accurate history
 2. lessons rightly drawn from historical events are considered important for guiding our conduct today
 - D. Note how valuable it is for a person to learn the true stories that the Bible tells us
 1. several years ago my dear wife decided that Bible reading would be the first school subject of the day
 2. several years ago I decided that in the morning at breakfast and in the evening at bedtime I would read the children something from the Bible
 3. the Holy Scriptures a person is taught at home from early childhood are able to make a person wise
 - a) for salvation which is in Christ Jesus
 - b) for many other matters

That the woman was deceived is indeed our true history

- II. That the Woman Was Deceived Informed the Apostle's Concern for the Churches
- A. 2 Corinthians 11:2-4 For I am jealous for you with godly jealousy. For I have betrothed you to one husband, that I may present you as a chaste virgin to Christ. (3) But I fear, lest somehow, **as the serpent deceived Eve** by his craftiness, so your minds may be corrupted from the simplicity that is in Christ. (4) For if he who comes preaches another Jesus whom we have not preached, or if you receive a different spirit which you have not received, or a different gospel which you have not accepted--you may well put up with it!
- B. Preachers come to the church who preach something different from what the apostles preached
1. another Jesus
 - a) Paul preached Jesus as the Son of God, being very and eternal God, of one substance and equal with Him, who took upon Him man's nature, yet without sin; who was conceived by the Holy Spirit in the womb of the virgin Mary, so that He was of the seed of Abraham and David, according to the Scriptures; so that two whole, perfect, and distinct natures were inseparably joined together in one person; which person is very God and very man, one Christ, the only mediator between God and man; crucified for sinners, buried, and on the third day risen again from the dead, all according to the scriptures; sure to come back again and raise us from the dead. That is the Jesus whom Paul preached.
 - b) but others came along behind Paul wherever he went and preached another Jesus
 - (1) a good man, but not really God
 - (2) or the son of God, but not truly man
 - (3) who did not really die on the cross
 - (4) or who did not really rise again from the dead
 - (5) or who was not the Savior of all mankind, but was the kind of the Jews, making Gentiles proselytes to Judaism

2. a different spirit;
 - a) Paul preached the power of the Holy Spirit, saying that the Spirit produces:
 - (1) Galatians 5:22-23 But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, (23) Meekness, temperance: against such there is no law.
 - (2) Ephesians 5:19-22 speaking to one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody in your heart to the Lord, (20) giving thanks always for all things to God the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, (21) submitting to one another in the fear of God. (22) Wives, submit to your own husbands, as to the Lord.
 - b) the different preacher says that the Holy Spirit produces
 - (1) doctrine about Jesus Christ other than that He has come in the flesh - 1 John 4:3
 - (2) speaking in tongues that no one can understand
 - (3) dreams and visions that tell the preacher things no one else knows
3. a different gospel
 - a) the apostles preached a gospel of justification before God not by works of keeping the law, but solely through faith in Jesus Christ
 - b) some other preachers preached a different gospel, that combines our works with the works of Jesus Christ for our justification (which, of course, really is no gospel at all)
- C. The apostle understands that when members of the church have their minds corrupted, their thoughts led astray, by those who teach false doctrine about Christ, it is similar to how the serpent deceived Eve. (2 Cor 11:3)
- D. If the apostle's concern is that the disciples might be deceived by false doctrine just as Eve was deceived by the false doctrine, then would it make sense to entrust the church's doctrine to Eve?

That the woman was deceived is indeed our true history

That the woman was deceived informed the apostle's concern for the churches

III. That the Woman Was Deceived Means She Must Not Be the Church's Teacher

- A. Of all the things the devil might have tried to get mankind to sin, what he actually did was beguile or deceive the woman; he told her that what God had said was not actually so, and substituted something untrue for what was true
- B. The devil was successful in deceiving her
- C. Then, by her agency, the devil was successful in getting the man to sin

- D. The woman, as created by God, can exert a very powerful influence on the man
 - 1. the man is very powerfully attracted to the woman
 - a) this is well known by the world, of course
 - b) it is true of men in general regarding women in general
 - c) it is true of every man in particular to any woman
 - d) it is uniquely true regarding a man to the woman who is his dear wife
 - 2. the man is very powerfully devoted to the woman
 - a) it is especially true regarding men to the women we are related to by family or friendship
 - b) it is true even of a good man to a woman who is a total stranger
 - 3. in this very powerful attraction and devotion there is great influence exerted on men by women
 - 4. for good or for evil
- E. The woman is more susceptible to being beguiled, deceived by the devil's false doctrine than is the man
 - 1. no woman has the right to say she is an exception to this rule
- F. The man is much more susceptible to being led astray through the woman than by any other means
 - 1. dear sisters, please consider this seriously: the men in your church---your own husband, your own father, your own brothers, your own sons or other relatives, the church's deacons, the church's pastors, are much more susceptible to being led astray into false doctrine or some kind of immorality through your influence than by any other means
 - 2. there is no more useful tool in the devil's hand than a woman who is deceived, and is influencing the men in her life toward that deception

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IV. APPLICATION

A. Consider how this goes, tragically, so often

1. the woman hears or reads or imagines something that is not true, but she doesn't realize it is not true, and she takes it as true
2. the woman tells this to the man; he would not, by himself, believe this thing to be true
3. but she has a very powerful influence on him, so he goes along with her, even against his better judgment

B. Dear sisters, do not try to be the church's teachers

1. neither formally
2. nor informally

C. Do not try to be your husband's teacher, either

1. your relationship with your husband as to doctrine is that if you would like to learn something, you are to ask your husband at home
2. if your husband does not believe the word of God, either generally or at some specific point, prove to him the truth of the word by your subjection, your submission; let your good works bear silent testimony that what you believe is true; obey your husband with a quiet and gentle spirit that is of great worth in God's sight

CONCLUSION

Who first seduc'd them to that foul revolt?

Th' infernal Serpent; he it was, whose guile...deceiv'd The Mother of Mankind

...from the bough She gave him of that fair enticing Fruit

...he scrupl'd not to eat [ate] Against his better knowledge, not deceav'd,

~~But fondly overcome with Femal charm.~~

Let the women of the church learn in silence with all subjection or submission. You are not permitted to teach or have authority over a man, but must be in silence. Why? Because

-Adam was formed first, then Eve

-and Adam was not deceived, but the woman, being deceived, was in the transgression

Roel - Call to Worship and Opening Prayer

Willie - Scripture Reading - Psalm 23

Dillon - Congregational Prayer

Anna - Prelude (please choose)

Anna - Trinity 198 "Jesus Christ Is Risen Today"

Rita - Trinity 227 "O Wherefore Do the Nations Rage"

Allison - Trinity 547 "My Jesus, I Love Thee"

Who first seduc'd them to that foul revolt?
Th' infernal Serpent; he it was, whose guile
Stird up with Envy and Revenge, deceiv'd
The Mother of Mankind

The sacred Fruit forbidd'n! som cursed fraud
Of Enemie hath beguil'd thee

...from the bough
She gave him of that fair enticing Fruit
...he scrupl'd not to eat
Against his better knowledge, not deceav'd,
But fondly overcome with Femal charm.

Genesis 3:13

H5377 *nasha*

LXX G538 *apatao*

TYN And the LORde God sayd vnto the woman: wherfore didest thou so? And the woman answered the serpent deceived me and I ate.

GEN And the Lorde God saide to the woman, Why hast thou done this? And the woman said, The serpent **beguiled** me, and I did eate.

KJV And the LORD God said unto the woman, What is this that thou hast done? And the woman said, The serpent **beguiled** me, and I did eat.

NKJV And the LORD God said to the woman, "What is this you have done?" The woman said, "The serpent **deceived** me, and I ate."

ESV Then the LORD God said to the woman, "What is this that you have done?" The woman said, "The serpent **deceived** me, and I ate."

H5377

used in OT to indicate when someone tells something false to get someone to believe that instead of the truth

G538

Ephesians 5:1-6 Be ye therefore followers of God, as dear children; (2) And walk in love, as Christ also hath loved us, and hath given himself for us an offering and a sacrifice to God for a sweetsmelling savour. (3) But fornication, and all uncleanness, or covetousness, let it not be once named among you, as becometh saints; (4) Neither filthiness, nor foolish talking, nor

jesting, which are not convenient: but rather giving of thanks. (5) For this ye know, that no whoremonger, nor unclean person, nor covetous man, who is an idolater, hath any inheritance in the kingdom of Christ and of God. (6) Let no man **deceive** [G538 *apatao*] you with vain words: for because of these things cometh the wrath of God upon the children of disobedience.

GEN, KJV, NKJV, ESV all read “deceive”

GEN, KJV “vain words” NKJV, ESV “empty words”

JRY: the devil’s choice of how to get Adam and Eve to sin shows us two things about ourselves

1. the woman is more susceptible to being beguiled or deceived than is the man
2. the man is more susceptible to being tempted by the woman than by any other means

See that Paul is not making this up about the woman being deceived. Eve herself said so.

Genesis 3:13 And the LORD God said to the woman, "What is this you have done?" The woman said, "The serpent **deceived me**, and I ate."

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1 Timothy 2:14 And Adam was not deceived [G538 *apatao*], but the woman being deceived [G538 *apatao*] was in the transgression.