

2:11-15 Women in the Church 01
Series: 1 Timothy
Reading **Ephesians 4:1-8 & 13-15** August 13th 2017

We have been working our way through Timothy. We are now arriving at the two most disputed passages in Timothy and possibly in the New Testament, the role of women in leadership and the qualifications of elders. I am always excited to come to God's Word and teach, yet I also have to say that it is easy to feel the fear of men/women when I come to this portion. Yet even so it is a privilege to look into God's Word and to hear Him speak. We are going to look today at the command for women to not teach or take authority over a man. We will look at the most popular excuses given to avoid this teaching of scripture and why they are wrong. Next week we get into the reasons that Paul gives. Let's start with a word of prayer, and a submissive heart in front of God as we look into Paul's directives about women in leadership.

- Unity comes under the leading of the Holy Spirit.
 - One body, one Spirit, One hope, One Lord, One faith, One baptism...
 - We are now in this body, led by this Spirit, under this Lord, fighting to keep this one faith....
 - As soon as we look for a unity outside of this, we leave God's Word and soon fall into error.
- 1 Timothy 2:11-12 ¹¹ 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."
 - The words are simple, direct and give us a command. The question is not really if we understand, but if we are willing to obey.
 - 1 Timothy 3:1-2 ¹ This is a faithful saying: If a **man** desires the position of a bishop, he desires a good work. ² A bishop then must be blameless, **the husband of one wife**, temperate, sober-minded, of good behavior, hospitable, able to teach;"
- Context: Helps us a lot
 - Paul was writing Timothy on how to behave in the Church.
 - The Church was to be a pillar and support of the truth. (1 Timothy 3:15)
 - Timothy was to hold these truths, stand for them, and forbid any other doctrine. (1 Timothy 1:3)
 - So that all men would be able to hear the good news.
 - The church would only be a light as long as it functions correctly.
 - It wasn't to get side tracked.
 - Attacks were going to come.
 - Acts 20:28-31 ²⁸ Therefore take heed to yourselves and to all the flock, among which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers, to shepherd the church of God which He purchased with His own blood. ²⁹ For I know this, that after my departure savage wolves will come in among you, not sparing the flock. ³⁰ Also from among yourselves men will rise up, speaking perverse things, to draw away the disciples after themselves. ³¹ Therefore watch, and remember that for three years I did not cease to warn everyone night and day with tears."
- It is in this context that Paul writes Timothy. He is involved in a war and Paul wants him to succeed.
 - **1 Timothy 1:18** "This charge I commit to you, son Timothy, according to the prophecies previously made concerning you, that by them you may wage the good warfare,"
- So in light of this, what did Paul mean when He wrote this?
 - He meant what He said; the normal, plain reading of the words.
 - **2 Co 1:13** "For we are not writing any other things to you than what you read or understand. Now I trust you will understand, even to the end"
 - **1 Timothy 3:15** "but if I am delayed, I write so that you may know how you ought to conduct yourself in the house of God, which is the church of the living God, the pillar and ground of the truth."

- **Objection Number 1:** This is not an isolated command for / to the church in Ephesus only!
 - **1 Timothy 2:8-9** “⁸ I desire therefore that the men pray everywhere, lifting up holy hands, without wrath and doubting; ⁹ in like manner also, that the women adorn themselves in modest apparel, with propriety and moderation, not with braided hair or gold or pearls or costly clothing,”
 - This is by far the most common way to try to get around this passage.
 - Of the 9 reasons that I could find given, almost all start by saying that this is a cultural passage, only for a time and place.
 - Women weren’t educated, society didn’t view women as equals so for the time, Paul forbids them from leadership positions.
 - 1 Timothy 2:11-12 “¹¹ Let a woman learn in silence with all submission.”
 - Allowing them in to learn already violated Jewish customs.
 - Does Paul ever not address issues in the church or our lives? Does he ever leave us in doubt or compromise to please people? (All of 1 and 2 Corinthians and Galatians, Romans is filled with tearing down arguments)
 - **Galatians 2:11-14** “¹¹ Now when Peter had come to Antioch, I withstood him to his face, because he was to be blamed; ¹² for before certain men came from James, he would eat with the Gentiles; but when they came, he withdrew and separated himself, fearing those who were of the circumcision. ¹³ And the rest of the Jews also played the hypocrite with him, so that even Barnabas was carried away with their hypocrisy. ¹⁴ But when I saw that they were not straightforward about the truth of the gospel, I said to Peter before *them* all, If you, being a Jew, live in the manner of Gentiles and not as the Jews, why do you compel Gentiles to live as Jews?”
 - **Galatians 2:15-19** “¹⁵ We *who are* Jews by nature, and not sinners of the Gentiles, ¹⁶ knowing that a man is not justified by the works of the law but by faith in Jesus Christ, even we have believed in Christ Jesus, that we might be justified by faith in Christ and not by the works of the law; for by the works of the law no flesh shall be justified. ¹⁷ But if, while we seek to be justified by Christ, we ourselves also are found sinners, *is* Christ therefore a minister of sin? Certainly not! ¹⁸ For if I build again those things which I destroyed, I make myself a transgressor. ¹⁹ For I through the law died to the law that I might live to God.”
 - So Paul stands up in front of the Jews and the Christians, rebukes Peter the first of the Apostles. That is Paul, the persecutor of the Church. He is now sold out to proclaiming the truth of God. No compromise.
 - **2 Corinthians 11:23-27** “²³ Are they ministers of Christ?-- I speak as a fool-- I *am* more: in labors more abundant, in stripes above measure, in prisons more frequently, in deaths often. ²⁴ From the Jews five times I received forty *stripes* minus one. ²⁵ Three times I was beaten with rods; once I was stoned; three times I was shipwrecked; a night and a day I have been in the deep; ²⁶ *in* journeys often, *in* perils of waters, *in* perils of robbers, *in* perils of *my own* countrymen, *in* perils of the Gentiles, *in* perils in the city, *in* perils in the wilderness, *in* perils in the sea, *in* perils among false brethren; ²⁷ in weariness and toil, in sleeplessness often, in hunger and thirst, in fasting often, in cold and nakedness.”
 - This was not a man who pulled his punches. He had counted the cost and was ready to lay it all on the line for Christ.
 - **Acts 20:22-24** “²² And see, now I go bound in the spirit to Jerusalem, not knowing the things that will happen to me there, ²³ except that the Holy Spirit testifies in every city, saying that chains and tribulations await me. ²⁴ But none of

these things move me; nor do I count my life dear to myself, so that I may finish my race with joy, and the ministry which I received from the Lord Jesus, to testify to the gospel of the grace of God.”

- **Acts 20:26-30** ²⁶ Therefore I testify to you this day that I *am* innocent of the blood of all *men*. ²⁷ For I have not shunned to declare to you the whole counsel of God. ²⁸ Therefore take heed to yourselves and to all the flock, among which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers, to shepherd the church of God which He purchased with His own blood. ²⁹ For I know this, that after my departure savage wolves will come in among you, not sparing the flock. ³⁰ Also from among yourselves men will rise up, speaking perverse things, to draw away the disciples after themselves.”
- **1 Timothy 3:15** ... the pillar and ground of the truth.
- **Objection Number 2 & 3:** Another reason given why this is only for Ephesus is that the women were fighting to take authority and that is why it was forbidden them.
 - There is truth in the historical setting. There was a women’s liberation movement in Corinth and Ephesus and in much of the Roman Empire.
 - The second and third most common explanation is that women were to be quiet and peaceful, until asked....
 - 2nd To take authority was forbidden, not the authority (KJV)
 - 3rd It was the attitude, not quiet equality / oneness, but combativeness that was forbidden.
 - This neglects / fails to deal with the prohibition on women teaching men, on the leaders being men, and so has no textual support. The words are plain. NKJV is a very good translation here. Neither have authority over man.... KJV Usurp / Take
 - This ignores the word “teach.” It just tries to pass this passage by.
 - **1 Timothy 2:12** “And I do not permit a woman to teach or to have authority over a man, but to be in silence.”
- **Objection Number 4:** My favorite is from a thoroughly conservative female. You can’t understand vs. 14 and 15 so we don’t dare apply verse 12.
 - This also ignores Chap. 3, if a man... husband of one wife.
 - Lack of understand does not excuse from obedience.
 - Even worse – Lack of understanding the reason why does not exclude obedience to a direct and clear command.
- **Objection Number 5:** There is “not enough men”
 - Elisabeth Elliot was used as an example.
- **Objection Number 6:** Jesus never taught on it.
 - This is heresy that holds the Gospel as more important, more biblical than the epistles that were written to the church.
 - Absence is not the same as clear teaching. (used by LGBT community)
- **Objection Number 7:** This letter was advice to Timothy in His time.... Not scriptural.
- **Objection Number 8:** Paul’s opinion not inspired by the Holy Spirit.
- **Objection Number 9:** This was only to apply to non-gifted women. When God gifts a woman, it is for the body.
 - **Titus 2:3-5** ³ the older women likewise, that they be reverent in behavior, not slanderers, not given to much wine, teachers of good things-- ⁴ that they admonish the young women to love their husbands, to love their children, ⁵ to be discreet, chaste, homemakers, good, obedient to their own husbands, that the word of God may not be blasphemed.”

2Co 13:14 “The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit *be* with you all. Amen.”