

February 26, 2017

Let a woman learn quietly with all submissiveness. I do not permit a woman to teach or to exercise authority over a man; rather, she is to remain quiet. For Adam was formed first, then Eve; and Adam was not deceived, but the woman was deceived and became a transgressor. Yet she will be saved through childbearing—if they continue in faith and love and holiness, with self-control.
1 Timothy 2:11–15 (ESV)

These verse form a chiasm giving two commands (A and B) with two reasons (A' and B').

(A) - Let a woman learn quietly with all submissiveness.

(B) - I do not permit a woman to teach or to exercise authority over a man; rather she is to remain quiet.

(B') - For Adam was formed first, then Eve;

(A') - and Adam was not deceived, but the woman was deceived and became a transgressor.

1. Women are to learn at church.

Let a woman learn quietly with all submissiveness....

Quietly means settled down, not unruly.

With all submissiveness means to fall in line

A woman is to receive instruction at church so the devil will not be able to deceive her into sin, like he did Eve.

2. Women are not to teach or exercise authority over men in the church.

I do not permit a woman to teach or to exercise authority over a man; rather she is to remain quiet....

1. Is this verse open to various interpretations?

- Disagreements over this verse didn't surface until 1969.
- Some, like Dr. Paul Jewett, claim Paul was wrong.
- Some claim Paul was just talking about excessive women leadership.
- Some claim Paul was talking about abusive authority over men.
- Some claim Paul was just giving his opinion when he said, "I do not permit."
- Some claim Galatians 3:28 erases this verse.

There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free, there is no male and female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus. Galatians 3:28 (ESV)

2. What does it mean for a woman to teach or exercise authority over a man in the church?

- Paul is talking about the public teaching office of pastor.
- Paul is talking about the board(s) that lead the church.
- The reason for male leadership in the church is from the creation account in Genesis, where man was formed first, and Eve was formed as a helper.

Then the Lord God said, "It is not good that the man should be alone; I will make him a helper fit for him." Genesis 2:18 (ESV)

The creation order in Genesis 2:

- God → Man → Woman → Creation

The order of the fall in Genesis 3

- Creation (snake) → Woman → Man → God

Sin entered the world not just from disobedience to God's commands but from an inversion of God's role for the sexes.

Paul says the proper creation order must be restored in the home and the church for the gospel to reach the world through our lives.

3. Where does this NOT apply?

- This is not referring to the work world.
- This is not referring to home Bible studies (Acts 18:26).
- This does not prohibit women from teaching other women and children (Titus 2:3-4).
- This does not prohibit a woman from praying in the church or contributing many other ways.
- This has nothing to do with giftedness. It deals with the God-given creation order of Genesis before sin reversed the order.

3. Why are these verses hard?

- Sin causes us to rebel against our God-given creation roles.

To the woman he said, "I will surely multiply your pain in childbearing; in pain you shall bring forth children. Your desire shall be contrary to your husband, but he shall rule over you." Genesis 3:16 (ESV)

- We misunderstand leadership in the church and the home.

4. Women lead the church through their children.

Yet she will be saved through childbearing—if they continue in faith and love and holiness, with self-control. 1 Timothy 2:15 (ESV)



1 Timothy 2:11-15

The Role Of Women In The Church