



Let a Woman Learn
“Entrusted to You” Series
1 Timothy 2:11-15, p. 991
February 21, 2021
Pastor Mickey Klink

Introduction

In this passage we learn biblical principles for thinking about men and women in the church.

The Text: 1 Timothy 2:11-15

¹¹ Let a woman learn quietly with all submissiveness. ¹² I do not permit a woman to teach or to exercise authority over a man; rather, she is to remain quiet. ¹³ For Adam was formed first, then Eve; ¹⁴ and Adam was not deceived, but the woman was deceived and became a transgressor. ¹⁵ Yet she will be saved through childbearing—if they continue in faith and love and holiness, with self-control.

1) The foreignness of this passage in our contemporary age is explained in three ways.

This text is (1) cultural ... (2) situational ... (3) foundational?

2) God’s design for male and female reflects the ministry of Jesus to all people (v. 11).

3) God’s design for male and female reflects the authority of Jesus over all people (v. 12).

(a) Teaching: There is a divinely established division of labor in the church regarding God’s Word.

(b) Spiritual Oversight: In God’s design, the office of pastor-elder is reserved for qualified men alone.

Three reasons that, we can be sure, ARE NOT BEHIND God’s design for the church:

(1) Value Reason: Men are more important and of greater worth to God than women.

(2) Preference Reason: God prefers and favors men more than women.

(3) Performance Reason: Men are smarter, better leaders, and more competent than women.

Three reasons THAT MIGHT EXPLAIN what is behind God’s design for the church:

(1) Gospel Reason: it reflects and points to Christ, head of the church, husband of Christ’s bride (Eph 5).

(2) Practical Reason: it provides an organizational structure for ministry and relationships (1 Cor 11)

(3) Big-Picture Reason: it is ultimately for God’s glory and for our good (Rom 8:28).

4) God’s design for male and female is rooted in the order and structure of creation (vv. 13-14).

5) God’s design for male and female exalts women and their significance in the purposes of God (v. 15).

Gen 3:16 – ¹⁶ To the woman [God] 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.”

Response: Again, hear this truth: God made you man and woman for his glory and our mutual good.

Sunday Text Questions for 1 Timothy 2:11-15, Part 2 (“Entrusted to You” Series)

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- 1) Starter Question: If you are being honest, which word best describes your reaction to this passage: uncomfortable, discouraging, or encouraging?
- 2) Read the text aloud and discuss together any significant observations or issues needing clarification.
- 3) Since v. 11 is talking to the pastors and the congregation, what is the significance of the command, “Let a woman learn,” especially in an ancient context where women were not educated?
- 4) Why does “with all submissiveness” in v. 11, at least to modern readers, sound like a demotion or rebuke, rather than a statement about order and structure during church gatherings?
- 5) How does v. 12 offer the clearest statement in all of Scripture that the church office of pastor-elder is reserved for men (only “qualified” men – see Ch. 3)?
- 6) What is your gut-level response to v. 12? What response does God expect to v. 12?
- 7) How do vv. 13-14 explain that the specific design for men and women is rooted in creation, and why is that important?
- 8) How is v. 15 alluding to Genesis 3:16, and what is Paul actually saying when he uses the phrase, “saved through childbearing?”
- 9) What does Paul mean when he exhorts women to live out their Christian life “in faith and love and holiness, with self-control?”
- 10) How might this passage be viewed negatively by women, how might it be viewed positively, and which perspective is more accurate (biblical)?

Further study this week: Passages describing the beauty of God’s design for male and female: Titus 2:3-5 (Mon); Proverbs 18:22; 31:10 (Tues); 1 Peter 3:7 (Wed); Matthew 19:4-6 (Thurs); 1 Corinthians 11:11 (Fri).