

Biblical Leadership: A Study of 1st Timothy
Lesson 5 “Women in Ministry”

I. Introduction - We are in a series on *1st Timothy*, which is a letter Paul wrote to Timothy in approximately 62 A.D. after he installed him as the pastor of the church in Ephesus.

A. This is personal letter, Paul wrote to mentor Timothy as Timothy took over one of the most significant churches in the 1st century (about 7 years after the revival that started the church). Paul wrote both to speak directly into Timothy’s life and also teach him how to address challenges the church was having (doctrinal, prayer, women, leadership, and how people handled money.)

B. Last week, we studied *1 Timothy 1:18-2:8* and talked about the importance of prayer in seeing the gospel go forth. We compared prayer to “Taking Air Superiority” the same way the U.S. did when we fought Iraq in the Persian Gulf War. When we take air superiority by binding the demonic and loosing heaven, we make it much easier to walk in victory in the natural realm.

II. Women in Ministry - Tonight we are going to study *1 Timothy 2:8-15* and answer the the question, can women participate in ministry?

A. Why is this important?

1. There is a lot of confusion about this topic because in this passage Paul says he doesn’t permit a woman to teach yet *Acts 2:17* says *son and daughters will prophecy*, God used a woman named Priscilla in ministry in *Acts 18:26*, Deborah was a prophetess and one of the deliverers of Israel in *Judges*, Paul said women should prophecy in church services in *1 Corinthians 11:5*, a woman named Junias was an apostle in *Romans 16:7*, a woman pastor named Chloe in *1 Corinthians 1:11*, the Samaritan woman led people to Christ in *John 4*, and Mary Madeline was the first to discover Jesus’s tomb empty.

2. Why would God take on half of the world’s population and say they cannot teach? Logically, it doesn’t seem like a good use of resources when the plan is to disciple nations.

3. With all that said, we can’t throw *1 Timothy 2* out of the Bible, so how do we deal with the apparent contradiction?

B. *1 Timothy 2:8-15*

1. *Verses 8-11* are connected. Men are to lift their hands as a sign of submission Paul when he describes how women should dress and behave - with an attitude of reverence and submission.

a. Sometimes in the church the focus gets to be more on the externals than the internals. We focus on whether a woman wears, make-up, how she

dresses, etc. instead of making the focus the condition of the heart. **1 Peter 3:3-4. Right actions flow from right believing.**

b. In **1 Corinthians 11:15-16** says he and churches of God don't have a custom of making women wear head coverings in the church.

c. Andrew Wommack nudist couple story - The focus needs to be heart, not the outward appearance.

2. **Verses 12-15** The key to understanding these passages is context.

a. Cultural - In Ephesus, the main religious system was the worship of the goddess Diana in her temple. Since Diana was a female, the priests in the temple were women. The only cultural context women in Ephesus had about worship, was they were in charge of worship. Paul is telling them, they needed to be willing to learn, not just lead. **This required a spirit of humility in a church where men were the leaders.**

b. Practical - In the first century, men and women often sat on opposite sides of the room. Sometimes when the minister taught, the women would hear the message and then speak a corrective word to their husbands on the other side of the room which dishonored the husband, was a lack of submission, and interrupted the service. (**1 Corinthians 14:34-35**).

c. The Greek - The greek word for woman is *gyne*, which is also translated wife 92 times in the New Testament. The word man is *aner*, which is translated husband 50 times in the New Testament. Paul then goes on to use the first husband and wife as a comparison making the point that a wife is not supposed to usurp authority from her husband the way Eve did when she persuaded Adam to eat of the tree of knowledge of good and evil. **Genesis 3:6 Eve was deceived. Adam wasn't because God told him to eat of that tree. He knew better and chose not lead.** Again - compare with Ephesian religious practice under Diana where women led. Paul is emphasizing submission because of a specific issue in Ephesian culture.

d. **Verses 11-12** Are all women supposed to submit to all men everywhere or are wives supposed to submit to husbands? They are to submit to their husband, not all men everywhere. These verses have been used to mis-teach that women have to submit to all men everywhere.

e. **Verse 15** Paul makes the statement about women being saved (sozo'd) in childbearing because some might try to malign women because of what Eve did. Paul is making the point that if women operate in faith, love, and self-control God can reverse the curse of painful childbearing pronounced in **Genesis 3:16**.

III. Conclusion

A. When Adam and Eve sinned a curse came upon humanity where a woman's desire would be for her husband and he would rule over her. Jesus came to reverse all of the

curse. There is still a place for biblical submission for women, but God's heart would be to a man who would love her like Jesus and lay down his life for her.

B. The big idea I want you all to take out of tonight is restoration and empowerment. God didn't banish half the human race to not having an important role in church leadership. He just wanted them to lead with having their home life in order having proper respect for their husband.

C. Offering Verse - **2 Corinthians 8:9**

D. Pray Closing Prayer and Call Up Prayer Team