

# 1 Timothy

## I. Introduction

A. **1 Timothy 2:8-15** . . . Therefore I want the men in every place to pray, lifting up holy hands, without wrath and dissension. [9] Likewise, I want women to adorn themselves with proper clothing, modestly and discreetly, not with braided hair and gold or pearls or costly garments, [10] but rather by means of good works, as is proper for women making a claim to godliness. [11] A woman must quietly receive instruction with entire submissiveness. [12] But I do not allow a woman to teach or exercise authority over a man, but to remain quiet. [13] For it was Adam who was first created, and then Eve. [14] And it was not Adam who was deceived, but the woman being deceived, fell into transgression. [15] But women will be preserved through the bearing of children if they continue in faith and love and sanctity with self-restraint.

## B. Pray

## II. The spiritual health of the church and the role of women

A. Without a doubt, the place, behavior, and treatment of women in the culture and workplace is one of the more controversial issues of our time, and has been for many years.

1. Sadly, this is also true in the church and in the Christian home. And though this controversy may be over-shadowed by other, seemingly more pressing issues of the day, it has not been resolved, nor has it gone away. Christian woman still feel oppressed by the church and their husbands.
2. Therefore, before looking directly at **1 Timothy 2:9-15**, we will look at some of the biblical teachings, beliefs and values, and church practices surrounding this issue. And the goal in doing this is to gain a better understanding of the larger issue so we can better understand **vs 9-15**.

B. What concerns you more, the will of God or your will; the ways and wisdom of God or the ways and wisdom of the culture around you; how you treat those around you or how they treat you; loving as God says to love or being loved according to how you want to be loved; the spiritual health of the church or the role of men and women in the church?

1. If you are a man, are you more concerned about women in the church not being in leadership **or** about both the men and the women growing in Christ-likeness and spiritual maturity so as to live and love according to God's will and word?
2. If you are a husband, are you more concerned about your wife submitting to you and your leadership in the home **or** loving your wife according to the standard set by Jesus Christ in loving you and the church?
3. If you are a woman, are you more concerned with fighting for equality and a position of authority as if that will protect you from being mistreated and taken advantage of by men **or** are you more concerned with dealing with selfish and sinful men according to God's word so that you remain godly in spite of their ungodliness?
4. If you are a wife, are you more concerned about your husband treating you as you want, and often ought to be treated **or** treating your husband as you ought – according to God's word – in spite of his treatment of you?
5. Whether you are a male or a female, what concerns you more will directly and significantly influence how you understand, deal with, and apply **1 Timothy 2:8-15**, along with the other passages in God's word that address the role of men and women in the church and in the home.
  - a. Though it is shameful, men who call themselves Christians have used this **1 Timothy** passage and others like it to assert their authority over women in general, and their wives specifically.
    - (1) In doing this, they have behaved in disrespectful, unkind, and unloving ways.
    - (2) They have demanded submission, and mistreated those who don't submit.
    - (3) They have been abusive – verbally, emotionally, physically, and even sexually.
    - (4) And they have acted as if Jesus' words about being judged as we judge others, and being shown mercy as we show mercy don't apply to them (**Matthew 7:1-2; 5:7**).
  - b. The reality is, this kind of arrogant, self-exalting, and authority abusive behavior ought never be found in the church or the Christian home. It is bad enough that in the world, women and girls are the most discriminated against and mistreated people group there is. But for this to be found in the church and the Christian home is reprehensible at best, and damnable at worst.

- c. But the problem is not just Christian men. Both Christian men and Christian women have made wrong things more important than God, God's ways, and God's word – men for mostly selfish and egotistical reasons, and women for mostly self-protection and survival reasons.
  - d. And though one reason may seem more noble than the other, both bring more selfishness, and more sin, and more trouble into our world. Therefore, let us be aware that what concerns us more will directly and significantly influence how we understand, deal with, and apply **1 Timothy 2:8-15**.
- C. Another thing that influences how we understand, deal with, and apply **1 Timothy 2:8-15** is the cultures' view of equality between men and women. The problem with the current view in the world and in the church is that it ignores the natural difference between equality and the hierarchy of authority.
- 1. Without question, the Bible speaks of an equality between men and women. For example:
    - a. **Genesis 1:27**, "God created man in His own image, in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them."  
(1) Both males and females are created in the image of God. This is a form of equality.
    - b. **Genesis 5:1-2**, "This is the book of the generations of Adam. In the day when God created man, He made him in the likeness of God. [2] He created them male and female, and He blessed them and **named them Man** in the day when they were created."
    - c. **Joel 2:28-29**, "It will come about after this that I will pour out My Spirit on all mankind; and your sons and daughters will prophesy, your old men will dream dreams, your young men will see visions. [29] Even on the male and female servants I will pour out My Spirit in those days."  
(1) Note the equality with which God treats male and female, and freemen and servants.
    - d. **Galatians 3:26-29**, "For you are all sons of God through faith in Christ Jesus. [27] For all of you who were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ. [28] There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free man, there is neither male nor female; for you are **all one in Christ Jesus**. [29] And if you belong to Christ, then you are Abraham's descendants, heirs according to promise."

- e. **Ephesians 5:17-28**, “So then do not be foolish (*in how you live and use your time*), but understand what the will of the Lord is. [18] And do not get drunk with wine, for that is dissipation, but be filled with the Spirit, [19] speaking to one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody with your heart to the Lord; [20] always giving thanks for all things in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to God, even the Father; [21] and **be subject to one another** in the fear of Christ. [22] Wives, be subject to your own husbands, as to the Lord. [23] For the husband is the head of the wife, as Christ also is the head of the church, He Himself being the Savior of the body. [24] But as the church is subject to Christ, so also the wives ought to be to their husbands in everything. [25] Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ also loved the church and gave Himself up for her, [26] so that He might sanctify her, having cleansed her by the washing of water with the word, [27] that He might present to Himself the church in all her glory, having no spot or wrinkle or any such thing; but that she would be holy and blameless. [28] So husbands ought also to love their own wives as their own bodies. He who loves his own wife loves himself.”
    - (1) Note the equality in being subject to one another.
    - (2) Note the difference between the duty of the wife and the duty of the husband. She is to submit or yield to her husband. He is to love her and nurture her spiritual growth and treat her as an extension of himself.
    - (3) Though her duty seems riskier from the human perspective, his duty is more so because her duty is to her husband while his duty is to God.
  - f. The point here is that there is an equality between men and women, and it ought to be acknowledge and protected – especially in the church and the Christian home.
2. However, equality does not negate or do away with the hierarchy of authority. It is my opinion that there is a universal and natural hierarchy of authority that has existed from the beginning of time and continues to this day. And for the most part, we accept and function under this hierarchy of authority. For example:
- a. We accept that God is the supreme being and therefore the sovereign authority over all humanity.
    - (1) According to the Bible, Jesus Christ is the sovereign authority over the church (**Ephesians 5:23**).

- (2) Also according to the Bible, God is the authority over Christ, Christ is the authority over man, and the husband is the authority over his wife (**1 Corinthians 11:3**).
  - (3) In government, the king or ruler has authority over the people under his rule.
  - (4) In the home, parents have authority over their children.
  - (5) In the workplace, the owner or manager or boss has authority over the worker.
  - (6) In school, the teacher has authority over the student.
  - (7) In church, the elders and pastor have authority over the congregation.
- b. Though some Christian women have resisted the teaching that the husband has authority over his wife, both men and women generally accept the hierarchy of authority as necessary.
- (1) Why? Because the hierarchy of authority serves many good purposes. In other words, it is not the hierarchy of authority that goes bad, it is the person in authority who misuses and abuses their position.
  - (2) We see this in the church between the leadership and the people. It is not the God ordained hierarchy that is the problem, but the prideful, power-hungry, greedy, self-serving leadership who are using their authority for their own benefit and not for the people's good.
  - (3) We see this in the home between a husband and wife. It is not the God ordained hierarchy of authority that is the problem, but the ungodly, unloving, egotistical, self-serving husband who wields authority to his advantage and to the harm of his wife and children.
- c. Therefore, the problem is not one of inequality, but rather the abuse and misuse of authority on the one hand, or a sinful rebellion against authority on the other.
3. In principle, the Christian wife who submits to the authority of God over her will accept and submit to the authority of her husband. If she is unwilling to accept and submit to God's hierarchy of authority in the home, then she has already rejected and become unwilling to accept and submit to God's authority over her.
  4. In the same way, the Christian husband who submits to the authority of God and Christ over him will not mistreat his wife – no matter how she behaves. Rather, he will love her as Christ loves the church; he will love her as he loves himself; he will give himself or

- make personal sacrifices for her as Christ did for him; he will treat her in an understanding way as Christ does with him; he will give her honor and respect as a fellow heir of the grace of God; and he will support her and provide for her and protect her as Christ does for all of us.
5. In other words, when a husband treats his wife as if she was his property, or if he threatens and mistreats her in an effort to make her submit to him, the problem is not his position of authority, but rather his unwillingness to submit to God and to live according to God's word.
  6. In the same way, when the men in a church treat the women as if they are in some way less than the men, the problem is not the hierarchy of authority. The problem is the men's unwillingness to submit to God – which results in them being arrogant, self-exalting, and abusive of their authority.
  7. Does the failure of men to treat women appropriately give women in the church and in the home the right to take matters into their own hands and fight back in ungodly ways?
    - a. NO! The Bible provides plenty of material on how the godly are to deal with mistreatment.
    - b. But it does give them the right to feel disrespected, mistreated, and unloved. And it gives them the right to see the men as hypocrites who are poor examples of what godly church leaders or a Christian husband ought to be.

### III. Conclusion

- A. You may be thinking that today's teaching has been harder on the men than the women. If you are thinking this, you are correct.
- B. The reason for this is because I am a man, and the reality is, I have not experienced what many women have experienced at the hands of sinful men in the church or in their homes. But I know myself, and I know that if it weren't for God's transforming power, I would be one of those men who demands more from his wife than he is willing to give, and who wants to be the authority rather than the one under authority because of the advantages to be gained from being in authority.
- C. Does this excuse the sin of women and wives in response to sinful men? No. But it is a reason why we men ought to implore God to have mercy on us.