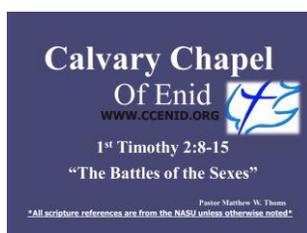


**1<sup>st</sup> Timothy**  
**Chapter 2:8-15**  
**“The Battles of the Sexes”**

**\*All scripture references are from the NASU unless otherwise noted\***

Calvary Chapel Fellowship of Enid  
Matthew W. Thoms, Pastor/Teacher  
April 26<sup>th</sup>, 2019

**10:00 -10:05 Announcements & Prayer**  
**10:06-10:26 Praise & Worship**  
**10:27-11:15 Teaching**  
**11:16-11:20 Praise & Worship**  
**11:21 Dismiss or Other Function**



**Announcement:**

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**Teaching:** As I reminded you last week ... **1<sup>st</sup> Timothy** is a letter written by the Apostle Paul to a young, timid gentleman who was the pastor of the church at Ephesus.

And what's particularly important to remember, as it relates to this morning's study, is that Paul wrote this letter to give Timothy guidance with regard to the management of the church.

As we've looked at, Timothy found it difficult to take a stand on his own convictions ... so ... Paul met him in that place of weakness by writing some very specific instructions on the most controversial of subjects. That way, Timothy could blame his decisions on the writings of Paul.

Last week ... we studied through **verse 8**, but I'd like to back up and have another run at **that verse** because it sets the stage and preserves the context for **the verses that follow**.

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**Verse 8:** In the **first seven verses of this chapter**, Paul talks about corporate prayer in general ... prayer in the church, but here ... he zeros in on men and their prayers, because, as we talked about last week, men are arrogant, and arrogance hinders prayer.

It's because of arrogance that men tend to struggle more with prayer in general and in particular, with public prayer. Because ...

- In prayer I worship God because He's so much greater than I am.
- In prayer, I ask Him to heal me, but that means admitting when I'm hurt.

- In prayer I pour out my needs to Him because He's the provider and giver ... not me.
- In prayer I seek His counsel because He's the wise one.

But those things are impossible if I don't stop pretending that I'm self-sufficient.

So, Paul calls men to very humble and humbling prayer. Public prayer with hands lifted as a gesture of submission ... of giving up on yourself.

But he doesn't stop there. He also calls men to prayer "**without wrath or dissension.**" So, no longer speaking of our arrogance against God, but now our arrogance against brothers and sisters.

In the original language it's saying that, "We must never start nor allow ourselves to be drawn into a discussion or debate than only makes people angry!" That's arrogant and counterproductive.

But it can be a real challenge not to take up the debate when someone doesn't handle a situation the way you would or doesn't believe what you believe. It's hard, at least for me, because I'm just arrogant enough to know that I'm right and they're wrong.

But Paul steers us guys toward the unnatural ... the supernatural ... he steers us toward humility. Toward letting God have control of our mouth.

So, for the men ... it's all about humility.

### **Q. Now what about the ladies?**

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**Verses 9-10:** Don't miss how this passage opens ... Paul says, "likewise" or "in like manner" ... telling us that he's still dealing with the same issue ... pride.

He said to the men that if their heart was humble before the Lord ... it would have external manifestations ... like raising their hands to the Lord and holding their tongue before men.

And here he says that "In like manner", if a woman's heart is humble before the Lord, it will manifest in her appearance.

And the instruction is sweeping ... modest, proper, discreet, inexpensive and expeditious attire and adornment.

Let's break that down ... starting with ...

**"Dressing modestly"** -- Picking out your clothes to look nice ... is fine but picking them out to be sexually provocative ... is not!

But just to clarify ... Paul's not prohibiting adornment as some would claim.



He uses the word kosmeo (kos-meh'-o) which literally means to decorate, and there's nothing here that prohibits a woman from decorating herself ... but he does regulate it.

And one of the questions that sometimes arises from this, is whether or not churches should have dress policies for the ladies. And the answer is ... absolutely not!

If there are ladies who visit or even attend the church but have not yet come to the point of understanding or surrendering to the Lord's instructions on dress ... then the answer is Christian discipleship ... not a dress policy. Remember ... Paul's saying that godly modesty comes from the heart ... not a church rulebook.

**Q. But what about Paul's comments on braided hair and jewelry?** – Take them in the context of the day. At that time, braided hair and fancy jewelry were how a prostitute advertised herself.

So, again ... it's not really a question of scrutinizing everything you put on, but of scrutinizing your heart. It you're trying to be provocative ... you're wrong ... end of story!

But then on the affirmative side he says, "Let your adornment be your good works as is proper for one professing to be Christ's."

And built into that ... is the prohibition against spending an excessive amount of time in physical beautification or allowing that to take a higher priority than the beauty of godly work.

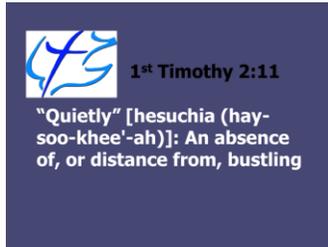
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**Verses 11-12:** So, Paul sets out three basic restrictions for the ladies here:

- 1.** He says that they're to quietly receive spiritual instruction and remain submitted to it.
- 2.** He also says that they cannot teach the Bible to adult men.
- 3.** And that they can't have unchecked spiritual authority over adult men.

So, let's pick these apart and see what we need to do with 'em.

**Q. First ... what's it mean to receive spiritual instruction "quietly"? Some of you**

**may have a translation that renders this as “silence” ... so is it saying that women shouldn’t speak during a church service?** – No.



The word is [hesuchia (hay-soo-khee'-ah)] and it literally means an absence of, or distance from, bustling.

It means that a woman is to quiet her heart and as she does that ... it will manifest itself as a quiet receptiveness.

It’s very likely that Paul’s addressing a habitual problem with the ladies in the Ephesian fellowship, but the counsel is solid for all of us.

**O. But does a woman really have the propensity to talk too much?** – The evidence would say ... Yes!

You’ve seen the studies they call “Lexical Budgets” I’m sure ... and they tell us that the average woman uses about three times as many words per day as a man. And even more ... a woman averages five common tones in her speech while men average just two.

So ya, it’s not hard to see how that could be an issue, but even busier than a woman’s mouth ... is her mind. Women are multi-taskers! They can correct school papers, make a phone call and cook dinner ... all while driving a child to soccer practice.

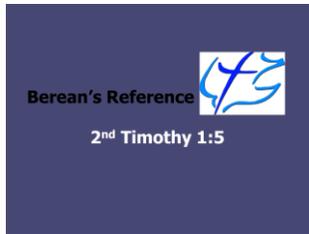
So, what Paul’s calling for here is a stillness of heart that manifests as a quiet receptiveness.

God wants you focused on His love-letter to you ... not what you’re going to do for dinner.

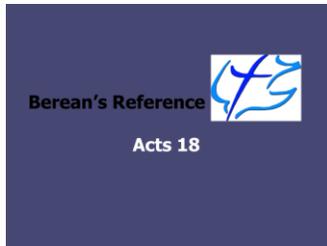
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But Paul goes on to say, as part of his instruction on church management, “**I do not allow a woman to teach** [spiritual things to] ... **a man**”.



Keep in mind that **Titus chapter 2** instructs older women to teach the younger women and ...



In **2 Timothy chapter 1 (verse 5)**, Paul gives praise to Timothy's mother and grandmother for the way they'd taught Timothy the scriptures in his childhood. So, there's most definitely a teaching role for women.



There's no prohibition against women sharing the things of God with anyone (**Acts 18**).



Women are not prohibited from praying with or praying for men (**1st Corinthians 11:5**). They're not prohibited from prophesying or from exercising or sharing the other gifts of the Spirit (**1st Corinthians 11:5 and chapter 12**).

But they are prohibited from teaching the scripture to adult men in an official capacity. To do what I'm doing here this morning.

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And last Paul says that God doesn't permit women to have unchecked spiritual authority over adult men within the church.

But again, we see no prohibition against a woman being a project manager or the CEO of a corporation or the president of the United States ... *unless your name's Hillary*.

**Q. But the question comes back to the church and whether or not a woman can hold a position of authority within it?** -- The key to answering that is found in the word Paul uses for "authority" here in **verse 12**.



It's authenteo (ow-then-teh'-o) in the Greek and it means independent or unchecked authority.

So, as an example ... Janet Coplen runs Children's Ministry for us here and in that position, she has authority. She chooses curriculum, she decides how funds will be used and she decides when, where, why and how ... those who serve under her will do so ... including men.

**Q. So is that a violation of what Paul's telling us here?** – No, because authenteo (ow-then-teh'-o) means independent or unchecked authority. And Janet serves under my authority ... so she's neither independent no unchecked.

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Throughout the history of the church, people have been tempted to add to, and take away from, this passage.

Some have even been tempted to deny its application altogether ... usually by claiming that Paul was giving instruction only for the women at Ephesus. That it was strictly a local matter.

But reading on we see that that interpretation is completely excluded ...

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**Verses 13-14:** Universal application stemming from two universal points:

1. That Adam was created and then Eve.
2. And that it was Eve who was deceived in the Garden of Eden.

**Q. But what do these things have to do with women not being allowed to teach or have authority over men?** –

**Q. First ... why's it relevant that Adam was created before Eve?** – Because it reminds us that woman was created as the helpmate of man. God could have done it the other way around, but He didn't. So, from the beginning, God's creative design called for distinct roles for men and women.

**Q. Second, he reminds us that it was Eve who was deceived by the serpent. But again, why does that matter when it comes to teaching and church authority? Is he suggesting that women are more susceptible to spiritual deception than men are?** –

Well, let me share with you a list of cults that will be familiar to you; Religious Science, The Charles Manson Family Cult, Hare Krishnas, Jim Jones' Peoples Temple, The Truth

Cult, The Children of God Cult and a host of Wicca subgroups.

All those and many others, share an interesting point of tactical strategy ... they all preyed-on women to get their start. All those cults were conceived by men but began by recruiting women.

**Q. Why?** – Because the men who founded them felt that they could deceive women faster than they could deceive men, but they also knew that if they could gain a group of women ... the men would follow close behind.

And all those cults exist today, because that strategy works.

And if you look at the demographics of cults like Wicca, the Mormons and the Jehovah's Witnesses ... women outnumber men almost 3 to 1.

So, it worked for Satan in the Garden of Eden and it still works today wherever God's proper design and order is ignored.

**Q. Is it because men have the superior intellect?** – Ha ... hardly! But we are far less emotional ... we only have two inflections to our voices for Heaven's sake. And because we don't have such emotional extremes, we're less likely to be deceived by those emotions.

**Q. So are the emotions of women a bad thing then?** – Of course not! If women had the same emotional makeup as men ... they'd never put up with us. The species would be extinct. Still ... a woman's greatest weakness is her emotions and Satan knows that and will use it unmercifully.

**Q. And what do you suppose man's greatest weakness is?** – Women! Satan also knows that and has exploited it from the beginning of time.

Deceive the woman through her emotions and then grab the man through the woman. That's why God's Word calls for male spiritual leadership. He leads ... she follows.

Do it the other way around ... and the world winds up cursed.

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But before we move on from here ... let's finish looking at this because Paul says, "**it was not Adam who was deceived, but the woman**" And, as men, we're always tempted to shake our finger at the female gender because of that.

**Q. But ... you know what that really means?** It means that Eve was duped, but Adam acted in fully conscious, outright rebellion. He wasn't deceived or confused when he bit into that forbidden fruit. He knew it was sin ... and did it anyway!

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Multiple things went wrong leading up to the fall of man in the Garden of Eden, but chief among them is the fact that Eve became the leader. She led the way ... Adam followed

... and here we are!

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But God knows His creation! He knows our strengths and He knows our weaknesses.  
And His instruction here is based on that knowledge.

To us men He says you've gotta get your pride in check. And He reminds you ladies to take precautions because of your susceptibility to deception ... particularly emotional deception.

Men ... humble yourselves before God. Recognize Him for who and what He really is ... way bigger and way smarter than you.

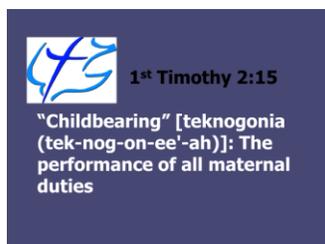
And you ladies ... if you're married ... hide beneath the wing of your husband. And if you not, rely on the authority and emotional stability of the God-appointed leaders in the church God's called you to.

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**Verse 15:**

**Q. Now what in the world is this saying?** – Well, I really don't know.

It's a difficult passage that has little to no consensus among the experts, so all I can offer you is a humble opinion ... but I think it's related to this commandment that women submit to spiritual authorities in the church and the husband's authority in the home.

Because God knows that that's enough to drive the best of women crazy. And I believe that God gives women children to preserve their sanity and that's what He means by them being preserved through childbearing.



Look at this word with me ... teknogonia (tek-nog-on-ee'-ah). That's the word translated "childbearing", but it refers to the performance of all maternal duties. So, it's far more than just having a baby. And I personally believe that children are God's provision ... His source of preservation for the sanity of women.

But notice ... **if they continue in faith and love and sanctity with self-restraint.**

So, women ... your greatest fulfillment will come as you walk with the Lord in faith, love, sanctity and self-restraint and as you pour yourself into children.

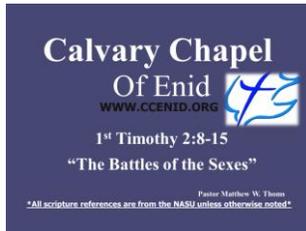
Your children, your grandchildren, your nieces and nephews and your spiritual children. Watching them grow in their faith and love and sanctity and self-restraint ... that will preserve your sanity.

So, our yourself out for them.

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**Conclusion:**

- 1.** Guys ... drop your pride and pray with your heart bowed low in every place.
- 2.** And ladies ... dress modestly and allow the Lord to adorn you with good works. Receive instruction quietly, submit to spiritual authority and preserve your own sanity by ministering to the children around you.



**Invitation as the Spirit Leads:** Scharry, [\_\_\_\_\_] and I will be available in the back of the sanctuary and if you've never made a commitment to Jesus Christ as your Lord and Savior or need to recommit or just have questions about what was covered this morning ... please come and visit with one of us.

**Invite to fellowship:** No evening service tonight, but the ladies will be gathering for Agape Circle Tuesday at 6:30.