

A Woman to Teach

First Timothy 2:5 - 15

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~ Our Spiritual Safari is an expedition that traverses the entire Bible – every chapter – almost every verse. That means we inevitably come across some extremely controversial sections of Scripture. A systematic study leaves no wiggle-room for a simple Bible teacher like me to cop-out on or avoid difficult, unpopular doctrine. Every section of Scripture must be accounted for; and must affirm every other area of Scripture, or said teaching becomes nothing but a hypocritical farce – and, friends, that’s one thing I am not.

This leg of our safari concerning a woman’s place in the church just happens to be one of those endlessly debated subjects. Some people refuse to allow the Bible to say what it says. In the final analysis, most self-professing believers don’t believe the Bible is the Word of God. Those people will argue against sound doctrine until they turn blue and fall over dead, too. There are large areas of the world where faulty doctrine is growing like terminal cancer. Well, we’re going to get to the heart of the matter of women in the church in this report. I can only suggest you read carefully....

5 For there is one God, and one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus;

6 Who gave himself a ransom for all, to be testified in due time.

~ We went over verse five in our previous report. Verse six goes with it and, if you have not read that previous report, I suggest you go back and do so now. “Ransom” is an important word; and the Greek word means “paid a price.” In this case, Jesus bought us from the devil. If we dispute the teaching of Paul then, my friend, we do not believe the Bible is the Word of God. Those who do not believe the Bible is the Word of God have neither the Spirit of God indwelling them nor the mind of Christ renewing their thoughts; because that would be impossible. Paul was appointed to the

office of an apostle by the Lord Jesus Christ Himself. “*Preacher*” in verse seven comes from the word that means “*a trumpet*” or “*to herald*.” That’s the way Paul gave out the Gospel; because that’s the way he was appointed to do so. I think Paul said, “... *I lie not*” because Timothy knew very well Paul didn’t lie. Paul spoke the truth. So, Paul was a trusted and truthful teacher of the Gospel of the death, burial and resurrection of the Lord Jesus Christ to the Gentiles....

7 Whereunto I am ordained a preacher, and an apostle, (I speak the truth in Christ, and lie not) a teacher of the Gentiles in faith and truth.

8 I desire therefore that men pray every where, lifting up holy hands, without wrath and doubting.

~ Verse eight refers to public service and public prayer. Lifting the hands up was a custom of identification that was practiced during prayer by the early church. It displayed dedication in the lives of those who were praying. We see hands being lifted up today in church services; and there’s nothing wrong with doing so — *if* your heart is right with God. Personally, I hesitate to lift my hands up because I’m never too sure about my hands; whether they’re clean physically - or otherwise. Paul said “*holy hands*” — which brings me pause. I know my hands are dedicated to God’s work and service — but — well, let’s just move along. Perhaps I should say we ought not dare hold up our hands if we do not use them for the wholly dedicated service of the Lord Jesus Christ. Just look back on your life and be honest with yourself; and you’ll know if you should be waving your hands around in the air at church. It can be very pious and pretentious, to be sure. It usually is.

If you do hold your hands up, you’ll want to make sure your sins are confessed in prayer to our Holy High Priest. If we have any unconfessed sin, anger in our heart, a bitter spirit, or some lingering doubt about the goodness of God, then we should definitely keep our hands down. One of the several reasons prayer meetings are avoided at all cost in the church today is because people lack faith. Deep down, most people simply do not believe God is going to hear and answer their prayer. Moreover, I think the Lord yawns and has a hard time staying awake at many so-called prayer meetings; because they are so boresome. You cannot improve fifty

spiritually dead saints praying by adding fifty more spiritually dead saints praying. I know that's not very nice – but it's highly accurate. If all of our sins are not fully confessed, then we can be absolutely assured that Psalm sixty-six verse eighteen is applicable to and for us; flip over there and read that verse....

9 In like manner also, that women adorn themselves in modest apparel, with Godly fear and sobriety; not with braided hair, or gold, or pearls, or costly array;

10 But (which becometh women professing godliness) with good works.

11 Let the woman learn in silence with all subjection.

12 But I suffer not a woman to teach, nor to usurp authority over the man, but to be in silence.

~ Today, there are two extreme views relative to the place women should occupy in the church, and which specific functions women should be performing. Both views use this passage of Scripture for very opposite theologies. One view permits women to hold the highest offices of leadership and public services. They have women preachers, music directors – no position is off-limits to those denominations. As a result, those women become dominant in said churches. Some of them have been lovely women of faith; and some of them are leading cults. The denominations that have women preachers are in grave spiritual decline today. Most churches with women preachers embrace everything from Islam to homosexual perversion as acceptable. The growth of the woman-led church is almost always the wrong kind. Not *ALWAYS* – but *ALMOST* always! When God uses those churches, it seems to be in spite of the position of women – not because of them. I recognize that's extreme; you don't have to agree with me. The other extreme position shuts women out altogether from any participation in public service. Women don't speak and they don't even sing in those churches. Believe me, they push women beyond the background and into irrelevance; and, I believe, they suffer a great loss of talent as a result. Women make a marvelous contribution when allowed to serve appropriately. Women are always more loving,

more caring, more sensible, more discerning, and *much* more spiritually aware than men.

One cannot go through the Word of God honestly and objectively and deny He uses women in a marvelous way. From Sarah to Rebekah to Rachel and Leah to Miriam to Jochebed to Deborah to Ruth to Abigail to Hadassah – Esther – to Elizabeth to Mary to Phebe to Priscilla to Lydia to Julia to the grandmother of Timothy – it is undeniable that God uses women in His service, friends. Unfortunately, in the day in which we are studying, the female as a principal was the head of almost all heathen religions. There was Aphrodite in Corinth – with her temple on the top of the Acropolis – who unquestionably led the most amoral religion ever known to mankind. Prostitution was the religion in Corinth. In Ephesus, where Timothy was as Paul writes this epistle to him, they had the temple of Diana dedicated to the goddess Artemis; and all of the mystery religions had myriad priestesses. It was a real problem.

The matter of sex simply cannot enter into Godly worship, teaching, preaching or ANY form of church service. That's the whole point in this passage. Dr. Harry A. Ironside tells the story of a woman preacher in Oakland, California. He and a friend were passing by the park where she was preaching one day. The doctor's friend deplored the fact that there was a woman preaching, and he commented about how it was a shame she was doing this thing – and many people think a woman shouldn't be doing any preaching or teaching. I, personally, agree that it's a shame – but not so much that a woman preaches – it's a shame when there's no man to take over the preaching for her....

13 For Adam was first formed, then Eve.

14 And Adam was not deceived, but the woman being deceived was in the transgression.

15 Notwithstanding she shall be saved in childbearing, if they continue in faith and love and holiness with sobriety ~

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