

# THE TRUTH REVEALED SETS WOMEN FREE

## Week 5 God's Women of Grace

1 Timothy 2:12 NASB **SLIDE**

*I do not allow a woman to teach or to exercise authority over a man, but to remain quiet.*

*A woman should not dominate a man any more than a man should dominate a woman.*

*This gender one-up-man-ship is contrary to the Spirit of Life in Christ Jesus.*

*One woman said, that in her church, even after the service, women sit at the back and must raise their hand to get permission from a man to speak!*

So, from what we've already learned in this series, we know, a literal interpretation of this verse fails because of its inconsistency with the other teaching Paul has given regarding women being able to minister and instruct.

**We've already seen, Paul advocated and encouraged both men and women to bring instruction and teaching through prophecy -**

- 1 Corinthians 14:5 Berean Study Bible

*I wish that **all of you** could speak in tongues, but I would rather have you [**all**] prophecy.*

- 1 Corinthians 14:26 NIV

*What then shall we say, brothers and sisters? [**adelphoi** - often used generally for all fellow believers] When you come together, **each of you (not just the men) has a hymn or a word of instruction** [= teaching = **didachēn** a revelation, a tongue or an interpretation]. **Everything must be done so that the church may be built up.***

- 1 Corinthians 14:31 NIV

*For you can **all prophecy in turn so that everyone may be instructed and encouraged.***

- Titus 2:3

*... Teach the older women ... to teach what is good.*

– Paul instructs older women to be '**teachers of good things**' and he doesn't say who they are to teach.

**THEN WE HAVE THE 5 WOMEN NAMED IN ROMANS 16, A FEW OF WHOM PAUL CALLS 'FELLOW WORKERS' OR 'MINISTERS'.**

They are, **Phoebe, Priscilla, Mary, Junia and Julia.**

Priscilla with her husband Aquilla both taught Apollos regarding 'The Resurrection' and are commended by Paul several times.

**AND YET, HERE IN 1 TIMOTHY 2:12, IT APPEARS PAUL HAS CHANGED HIS MIND -**

1 Timothy 2:12 NASB

*I do not allow a woman to teach or to exercise authority over a man, but to remain quiet.*

The Truth is: *unlike some preachers I've heard who preach one thing one week and a few weeks later something contradicting that,*  
**The Apostle Paul was never inconsistent with his doctrine.**

Each new revelation only added to and expanded all previous revelations that Paul brought and taught.

**SO HOW ARE WE TO TREAT THIS VERSE?**

Is there some reason why Paul is saying this to Timothy?

Indeed there is.

**THERE IS A SPECIFIC REASON TO DO WITH THE UNIQUE HISTORICAL SETTING AT EPHEBUS (TURKEY) AT THE TIME.**

Part of 'Rightly Dividing The Word of Truth' (which sets us Free) is to look into THE HISTORICAL CONTEXT OF A VERSE ...

**BY THIS WE CAN DISCOVER -**

- WHY IT HAS BEEN WRITTEN
- HOW IT HAS BEEN WRITTEN
- TO WHOM IT HAS BEEN WRITTEN

**IN FACT, WITHOUT KNOWING THE REAL BACKGROUND SETTING FROM WHICH A VERSE HAS BEEN WRITTEN, IT CAN APPEAR TO HAVE THE OPPOSITE MEANING.**

**LOOK HOW THE BACKGROUND OF A STATEMENT CAN CHANGE ITS MEANING -**

**LOOK AT THIS STATEMENT -**

**'MY HUSBAND TOLD ME NOT TO GO OUT'**

### **SLIDE 1 - A woman standing on a beautiful sunny beach**

*Here the husband appears to be dominating and controlling saying, 'Don't you dare go out. Your place is to be cleaning and cooking in the house.'*

### **SLIDE 2 - The same woman standing in the sleet and snow**

*With this picture as the background to the statement, the husband appears to be compassionate and concerned for his wife saying, 'Darling don't go out today. It's freezing and you might catch a cold.'*

This is what has happened here in our text.

And people have used this verse to suppress women, which it was never meant to do!

SO, THIS OF COURSE BEGS THE QUESTION ...

**WHAT WAS THE BACKGROUND SETTING BEHIND PAUL'S STATEMENT, 'I WILL NOT ALLOW A WOMAN TO TEACH OR DOMINATE A MAN'?**

#### **THE CULT OF ARTEMIS**

*Ephesus was the centre of worship of the goddess Artemis, or Diana, as the Roman's called her. **SLIDE***

*It was a powerful and influential cult that had spread throughout the entire Greco-Roman world ...*

*Artemis' shrines, temples and festivals (Artemisia) could be found throughout the Greco-Roman world.*

#### **SLIDE THE TEMPLE OF ARTEMIS WAS AT EPHEBUS**

*The temple – **made of solid marble** – was **one of the seven wonders of the ancient world** and was the largest building in the Greek world. It was 115 m long and 46 m wide - larger than a football field. It was also one of the largest banks of the ancient world. 127 Ionic columns were 18 metres tall and decorated with ornate friezes, **brilliantly gilded in silver and gold**.*

#### **THOUSANDS OF PEOPLE FROM ALL OVER THE WORLD CAME TO SEE IT**

*It's importance to the citizens of Ephesus in Paul's day is evident from Luke's record of the two-hour-long chant, "Great is Artemis of the Ephesians" (Acts 19:28-37).*

**SLIDE** ARTEMIS WAS A FEMALE GODDESS WHO EXALTED FEMALES & TAUGHT '**FEMALES WERE SUPERIOR TO MALES**'

*The temple was run by women who surrounded themselves with male eunuch priests.*

*These women disparaged marriage and denied the creation. (See 1 Timothy 4:1-5)*

- *Some of these women teachers would have been converted to Christ and now still carried over their didactic teaching ...*
- *Many would have only ever believed that a woman was superior to a man. In fact, seeing a man teach would have been a challenge to them.*
- *Some probably felt it was their responsibility to teach a man who they believed was actually inferior and therefore needed teaching.*

Can you begin to see what a problem this could have been? -  
One that needed to be addressed?

NB: Paul here uses the term '**A WOMAN**' and not '**WOMEN**' ... as he previously did in verse 9 (*Likewise, I want the women to adorn themselves with respectable apparel, with modesty, and with self-control... BSB*)

1 Timothy 2:12 NASB **SLIDE**

*I do not allow a woman to teach or to exercise authority over a man but to remain quiet.*

THIS TELLS US THAT THIS IS **NOT A COMMAND FOR ALL WOMEN** IN THE NEW TESTAMENT CHURCH, BUT FOR A CERTAIN TYPE OF WOMAN

He is NOT saying women cannot teach with Authority.

He is NOT talking about Wives being submissive to their husbands.

Paul is dealing with a specific issue in The Ephesian church.

NOTICE CAREFULLY what Paul says in chapter 1 -

1 Timothy 1:3-4 NIV **SLIDE**

*As I urged you when I went into Macedonia, stay there in Ephesus so that you may command **certain people** not to teach **false doctrines** any longer <sup>4</sup>or to devote themselves to **myths** and*

*endless genealogies. Such things promote controversial speculations rather than advancing God's work—which is by faith.*

## **DOCTRINES & FABLES**

Paul's teaching is NOT Jewish Myths as he states clearly in Titus 1:10-14.

But these people were teaching Greek and Gnostic Myths which were rife at the time. And this is what he's speaking out against here.

THIS IS THE BACKGROUND OF THE OTHER DOCTRINES & FABLES WHICH WERE BEING TAUGHT BY '**CERTAIN PEOPLE**' AND ...

**SOME OF THESE WOULD HAVE BEEN 'CERTAIN WOMEN'**

**myths** (mythois) An idle tale, fable, fanciful story. Perhaps from the same as muevo; a tale,

**NB: 'Exercise Authority Over' (Dominate) = authentain - this is the only time this word is ever found in the Bible.**

It means one who acts on their own authority ... dictates ... gives orders ...

In Paul's time '**authentain**' referred to an abuse of authority ...

***This is AN ABUSE OR MISUSE OF AUTHORITY ...***

**SLIDE** WOMEN WHO HAD BEEN CONVERTED TO CHRISTIANITY NOW HAD TO BE RETAUGHT

HENCE -

1 Timothy 2:11

*Let a women learn in silence and submission*

**A WOMAN COULD 'LEARN'.**

**LET 'A WOMAN LEARN' THE SCRIPTURES ...**

This was revolutionary in that time of Rabbinical Law which forbade women to learn.

Paul instructs these 'certain women' who had no background in the Old Covenant Scriptures and whose religious convictions had been formed by the Artemis cult. He tells them to 'learn in quietness'.

**HE DOESN'T SAY ... 'KICK THEM OUT'.**

**BUT HE WANTS THEM TO LEARN WHAT IS RIGHT.**

## **'IN SILENCE'**

This means 'quietly'.

In the Greek it is the same root word used for "quiet" in verse 2 where Christians are told to pray for a 'peaceful and quiet life.'

This phrase of course does not describe a life in which no one talks.

**IT SPEAKS OF A LIFE "WITHOUT TURMOIL."**

Likewise here, "quietly" does not mean complete silence.

*It means women are to learn in peace and without turmoil.*

**OTHER VERSES IN OUR CONTEXT OF 1 Timothy 2:8-15 CAN NOW ALSO BE UNDERSTOOD CLEARLY WHEN WE SEE THE BACKGROUND FROM WHICH THEY WERE WRITTEN –**

## **SLIDE WHAT IS THE BACKGROUND FOR PAUL CITING THE ORDER OF THE CREATION OF ADAM & EVE?**

**1 Timothy 2:13-14 SLIDE**

*For Adam was formed first, then Eve. <sup>14</sup>And Adam was not the one deceived; it was the woman who was deceived and became a sinner.*

*Female false teachers taught that Artemis, the mother-goddess, created woman first and that men were deceived and evil.*

*Several ancient documents around at the time contained strange versions of **the creation of humanity.** In these documents, **Eve, or a powerful feminine force, gives life to Adam and Adam is the one deceived.***

*The various versions of these distorted creation stories were taught by some Christians, including **Christian Gnostics and their forerunners.***

*(Adam & Eve in Ancient Gnostic Literature)*

And so this is why Paul writes about the true order of creation.

## **SLIDE WHAT IS THE BACKGROUND BEHIND PAUL'S DRESS CODES**

**1 TIMOTHY 2:9-10 Berean Study Bible SLIDE**

*... I want the women to adorn themselves with respectable apparel, with modesty, and with self-control, **not with braided hair or gold or pearls or expensive clothes,** <sup>10</sup>but with good deeds, as is proper for women who profess to worship God.*

There is a story called '*Ephesiaca*' – *written by Xenophon of Ephesus* in approximately **50 AD about the same time Paul was headquartered in Ephesus**, according to "Acts of the Apostles." Paul was centred there perhaps around 52-54.

Dr Gary Hoag states: Looking at the evidence from "Ephesiaca," I discovered wealthy women, followers of Artemis, plaited their hair with gold and pearls to show their piety to the goddess Artemis.

**SLIDE THE GOLD & PEARLS IN BRAIDED HAIR WAS A STATEMENT SYMBOLISING DEDICATION TO ARTEMIS**

So Paul is saying to women in the Ephesian church to adorn themselves modestly and with discretion, **not with this hairstyle associated with the goddess**, but with good deeds to show their piety toward God.

**NB: PAUL IS NOT NECESSARILY ENFORCING A DRESS-CODE FOR CHRISTIAN WOMEN.**  
**HE IS DEALING WITH A FORMER RELIGIOUS CULTURE.**

**APPLICATION**

Many people today come to Christ and bring with them many former customs ...

*When I first believed, I used to wear a huge crucifix around my neck and had a crucifix ear-ring in my left ear.*  
*Shortly after, while being prayed for by a minister, I asked ... 'What about these things?'*  
*He said wisely, 'We don't need these anymore'.*  
**SO I THREW THEM AWAY.**

**THE DEMONIAK ... WAS CLOTHED & IN HIS RIGHT MIND**

- **SLIDE WHAT IS THE BACKGROUND BEHIND WOMEN BEING SAVED IN CHILD BEARING?**

**IT IS NOT WHAT ONE MISGUIDED PROFESSOR of Biblical Theology at the Southern Baptist Theological Seminary JIM HAMILTON, WROTE "All Women must embrace their role as women by bearing children and, if they do this in faith, they will then be saved."**

**THE BACKGROUND TRUTH IS ...**

Artemis of the Ephesians was a fertility deity.



Because Artemis helped her mother, Leto, deliver her twin brother Apollo, **SHE BECAME THE GODDESS OF CHILD BEARING.**

She was believed to have the power to bring new life into the world and to take away life.

**SLIDE** So expectant mothers were afraid that if they didn't remain loyal to the goddess, they were going to die during child bearing.

Women also invoked Artemis to aid conception and delivery.

**SO PAUL WRITES -**

**1 TIMOTHY 2:15 NIV SLIDE**

*But women will be saved [in the act of] childbearing—if they continue in faith, love and holiness with propriety.*

***Re: 1 Timothy 2:11-15:***

*No biblical text has been so misused to dictate so many prohibitions that stifle so much **service by so many people.***

***Put simply, any female who has sufficient and accurate information may teach that information in a gentle spirit to whomever in whatever situation they may be found.***

*(Carroll Osburn, a long-time professor of New Testament at Abilene Christian University)*

## **KNOWING THE TRUTH SHALL SET YOU FREE**

**Jesus said -**

**John 8:32 New Heart English Bible**

***You will know the truth and the truth will make you free.***

### **HOW POWERFUL IS KNOWING 'THE TRUTH'**

- If the truth you know doesn't set you free then you can know it's not the truth Jesus spoke of.
- If what you believe is not true good news then you will not be free
- If what you believe is true good news then you will be free

***Many slaves remained slaves in America after the Declaration of Emancipation was given and slavery had been abolished.***



*Why? Their masters never told them they were free.*

***THEY DIDN'T KNOW THE TRUTH AND REMAINED IN SLAVERY TO A LIE.***

**God wants you to know that you have been SET FREE.**

**YOU ARE FREE**

**YOU'RE NO LONGER A SLAVE.**