

Basic Facts From ... FIRST TIMOTHY (Part 3)

By: Dave Rogers

One of the most “controversial” topics in the new testament appears in 1 Timothy 2:11-15, when Paul addresses the subject of a woman’s public role in the church. Through the last half of the twentieth century, and especially now, in the twenty-first, much of western society has recoiled in disgust from the very idea that there could or should be any distinction at between the roles of men and women within the church. Liberal protestantism led the way in asserting that the bible must be changed, reinterpreted, or – “if necessary” – simply ignored, to insure that women are both allowed and encouraged to fulfill every conceivable position and responsibility that exists in the church. Paul’s words in verses 11-12 prescribe “quietness” (not abject silence – that would prohibit even singing or making the good confession). They also expressly withhold permission for Christian women to assume roles of teaching or leadership authority. The Greek words rendered as “usurp authority” (in the KJV) – which denote the ideas of command and domination – are now usually dismissed as being merely a “cultural thing” which modern society has “outgrown,” or sometimes they are discounted with the accusation that Paul was a misogynist who should be ignored on this subject.

We should note here, however, that Paul does not simply offer these directives with no explanation for them, nor does he in any way imply that differences in the public roles of Christian men and women signify differences in

“worth” or “citizenship status” in the Lord’s kingdom. The Holy Spirit’s inspired “reasoning” for the differences here is rooted in the orderliness of God’s creation, NOT in cultural customs or notions of “male vs. female worth” (vs. 13). Verse 14 is one of the very few passages in scripture that takes note of the fact that Eve actually preceded Adam in experiencing sin, the fact that she was deceived by Satan in the garden (a point that does not flatter Adam, since it seems to imply that he fully understood that he was knowingly violating God’s commandment, even as he was sinning). Paul’s instructions to Christian women, therefore, have nothing to do with whether they are “capable” of filling public leadership roles, or of effectively teaching men in a public way: Rather, they have everything to do with whether or not Christian sisters are authorized to do these things (and they are not). On a purely practical level, were Christian women permitted by God to be elders or deacons, to do all the “public leadership” things assigned to men, very few men would ever reach for such responsibilities. Don’t believe me? How many fathers leave the bulk of child-rearing responsibilities to their wives, despite the explicit instruction found in Ephesians 6:4?

The points we need to see in this matter are these: First, differences in the responsibilities God has assigned for men and women in the church have nothing to do with differences in ability. To suggest that Christian women are not as capable of deep, serious bible study and

understanding, and as capable of effective teaching, encouraging and leading as their brothers is to ignore the evidence found in most congregations, where the best, most knowledgeable bible students are almost uniformly found among the older women. Second, the fact that men and women have “different” public responsibilities in the church proves only that we are different (not “unequal,” nor “unfair,” nor “underprivileged,” nor “less- or more-important.” Simply different, just as men

and women are not “interchangeable”). To argue with the Holy Spirit’s instructions because we don’t like what He said, or to ignore His words because we “don’t see the point” of them, is to diminish God. Jesus was very plain when He said, “...If ye continue in MY word, then are ye my disciples indeed; 32 And ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free” (John 8:31-32, emphasis mine, DR). God neither asked our opinion nor offered us a “vote” on this matter.

I Have Never Saved The Lost, Am I Lost?

Article Selected

As a younger preacher, I overstated truth in an attempt to get the church to be more involved in saving the lost. I would say things like, “You cannot go to heaven alone, so go teach the lost.” I am sure that I wanted Christians to evangelize the world and chose words I would not use today.

Is it true that you cannot go to heaven alone? Think about what that would say about the preaching of Noah. I realize he saved his family, but his preaching never changed anyone except his family. What about the proclamation of truth by Ezekiel? When God called him, He said, “I am sending you to a...rebellious nation...for they are impudent and stubborn children...they are a rebellious house...they are a rebellious house...for they are rebellious” (**Ezek. 2:3-7**). This prophet is simply one of many of God’s messengers who may enter into heaven alone.

Is it true that every Christian has the ability to teach another? As a younger preacher, I probably overstated this. Read the closing verses in First Corinthians 12. Paul lists many leaders in the church and asks a series of questions about them. “God has appointed these in the church: first apostles, second prophets, third teachers...Are all apostles? Are all prophets? Are all teachers? Are all works of miracles...Earnestly desire the best gifts. And yet I show you a more excellent way” (**1 Cor. 12:28-31**). Obviously, the apostle is talking about spiritual gifts, but when God gave those gifts, He did not give the gift of teaching to every Christian.

Do not overlook this truth. While not every Christian has the ability to teach another, every

Christian does have the ability to lead others to Jesus. As I have matured as a Christian, I understand with greater appreciation the Bible words, “Come and see.” It is found several times in the New Testament, and these words were used to bring others to the Teacher. These same words can be used by any Christian to bring others to those Christians who do have the ability to teach the lost. Not every person has the ability to teach, but every Christian has the words to invite!

What about the Great Commission given to every Christian in regard to every lost soul? Read it carefully. It does not say we are to baptize every person, but to teach them to do what Jesus said. Our work is to sow seed (even on the “wayside” soil), to water that seed and then let God give the increase. All are not teachers, but all of us have the ability to lead others to our Lord, simply by saying, “Come and see.”

The words of an old song perhaps say it best. “Are you sowing the seed of the kingdom, brother, all along life’s fertile way? You must reap at the last great day.” “Come and See!”



Upcoming Events

TODAY: Ron White will be preaching this morning and Bryant Siegel will be preaching this evening.

Friday, Aug. 26: Family Fellowship Night at the building at 6:30pm. Please bring finger foods and games.

Sunday, Aug. 28: Ben Moseley will be our guest speaker for the day.

Sunday, Sept. 4: James Cammock will be preaching the morning sermon. There will be a potluck luncheon after morning worship, then Summer Youth Bible Series Awards. Singing to follow at 12:45pm

Area Events (More info on the bulletin board in the hallway):

Aug. 20: Ladies Day at Portland church of Christ

Prayer List

Prayer Requests:
Zack Vela, brother of Kayla Vela, who is a friend of Nina Siegel, Nicolette Garcia and Lupe Escojido, Jr. Zack broke his neck in an accident last Sunday and has other serious injuries.

James Hicks who is currently working in San Antonio and while there, is worshipping with the Schertz congregation.

Mike Atkinson and his medical procedure.

Faye Henderson is now residing at SODALIS Senior Living, 411 Larkspur St., Victoria, TX 77904. Faye is in room number 39.

Members

Jeff Cannady, Les Daltry, Kin and Sandra Marie, Ann Pantel, Veronica Serenil, Clark Withers, Dee Gilpatrick, Faye Henderson.

Service Roster

Week of August 21, 2022

Sunday Morning
Scripture Reading..... Dan Fielder
Song LeaderRick Bass

Opening Prayer..... Ron White
Closing Prayer..... Jeff Cannady

Lord’s Supper & Offering
Bread..... Bryant Siegel
Cup.....James Cammock
Offering..... Lupe Escojido
Assist..... Willie Fossati
Assist.....Jack Jobs
Assist..... Luke FitzSimmons

Sunday Evening
Song Leader Ken Dorries

Opening Prayer..... Bryant Siegel
Closing Prayer..... Will Burleson

Lord’s Supper & Offering..... James Cammock, Willie Fossati

Wednesday Evening
Adult Class Kevin Sheeran
Song Leader Rick Bass
Devotional Kevin Sheeran

Other
Prepare Communion Bass

Congregational News

Birthdays
Jenna Shafer.....Aug. 22
Jerry FitzSimmons.....Aug. 24

Anniversaries
Doug & Kasi Jobs.....Aug. 22

Food Helpers for the month of August - Team B.

If you have any prayer requests or upcoming events to be announced, please contact our secretary, Nina Siegel, at (361) 573-0030.

Our Elders

Mark FitzSimmons
Ron White

Our Deacons

James Cammock—Evangelism
Lupe Escojido— Benevolence
Bryant Siegel—Education and Finance

Weekly Reading

“Love suffers long and is kind; love does not envy; love does not parade itself; is not puffed up...”
1 Corinthians 13:3

Service Times

Sunday Morning Bible Class.....9:00 A.M.
Sunday Morning Worship.....10:00 A.M.
Sunday Evening Worship.....5:00 P.M.
Wednesday Bible Class.....7:00 P.M.

Attendance Records

Week of August 14, 2022

A.M. Bible Class.....50
A.M. Worship.....73
P.M. Worship.....50
Wednesday Bible Class.....45
Offering week of August 14, 2022.....\$4,088

Supported Works

John & Carla Moore *Bible Land Passages*
B.K. York *Southwest School of Bible Studies*

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