

Introduction – Have you ever had your car breakdown and end up stranded?

- Apr 2022 -Yuma – Walts memorial, ashes truck, Brenda and I quiet, no talking , paul rescued

Ephesus Church is showing many signs of engine trouble – Paul like a good mechanic “sees” the check engine light and is diagnosing the behavior in the culture with -Timothy

Today's emphasis is taken from 1Tim 2:8-15. READ

We read Paul addressing Timothy concerning men and women who have been influenced by these corrupt leaders and false doctrines.

I. Vs 8- During the instruction to Timothy -Paul calls a timeout because of particular behaviors in the Church – causing significant trouble in the community!

A. Reminder: What we believe will always manifest itself in our behavior-

Diagnose behavior/evaluate belief

B. Paul is clearly addressing the behaviors of both men and women because of the influence of certain named and unnamed teachers “Hymenaeus and Alexander”.

C. What we see is that Timothy has a two-fold job

1. Identify and root out false teaching that are not rooted in Christ teaching and modelling.
2. Address unhealthy and ungodly behavior that does not represent Christ and does not cultivate a culture of peace and trust

D. Men's problem /solution ?

1. **Problem:** Unholy hands , Wrath and dissension (anger & negative narrative)
2. **Solution:** Prayer in every place – Character corrections (**Holy hands speak of behavior in Christ**)

Questions for connection:

- How would your life be affected if you added another place of prayer in your day/week?
- How would your emotional life or your mental health spiritual growth be impacted?

E. Vs. 9-11 Women's problem /solution?

1. **Problem:** Too much focus upon material wealth – Wealthy women in Greek culture looked down on those that had less. “Plebs”
2. **Solution** – focus on Godliness & Character-

3. **Practical instructions from Paul:** Receiving instruction in quietness- this applies generally to both men and women – specifically to women in Ephesus because of the practice of order in the church (men on one side / women on another) **Interruptions /disruptions in the meetings**

1 Pet. 3:3-4 Your adornment must not be *merely* external—braiding the hair, and wearing gold jewelry, or putting on dresses; ⁴ but *let it be* the hidden person of the heart, with the imperishable quality of a gentle and quiet spirit, which is precious in the sight of God.

II. Vs 12-15. False doctrines – Priest and priestess in Greko-roman world

- A. **Reminder:** This is a PE to Timothy about the seduction and the false teaching that is happening at Ephesus. **(Check engine light is on- need attention)**

These verses and others have been used to distort ministry specifically given by and through women

- B. **Paul addresses an “Ephesus” specific problem**

(Artemus the beautiful 60ft tall 7 wonder of ancient world)

a. **Goddess Artemus aka Diana of Ephesus – feminist cult with “doctrines of demons”**

1 Tim 4:1 But the Spirit explicitly says that in later times some will ^{be}fall away from the faith, paying attention to deceitful spirits and doctrines of demons,

1. **Verses 12 specifically referring to these women who are holding this doctrine –**

“I do not allow a woman to teach or exercise authority over a man” – Greek culture verses Roman culture

2. **Verses 13-15 spells out specific points of falsity in the false doctrine being taught – Diana was a virgin who delivered women from marriage – therefore marriage is evil *false**

3. **These verses are not referring to the whole of scripture! **If God did not want women to have a voice he would have never given them one!****

Questions for connection:

- Do you have beliefs in you that limit you from becoming woman or man that God has called you to be?
- Have you been practicing behaviors

III. Views of women in ministry

A. Four differing views regarding women in ministry

a. Traditional – non-biblical

B. Progressive – non biblical

C. Egalitarianism – women are equal in value and equal in roles because of

Arch verse-Gal. 3: 27-28 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 ^[a]neither male nor female; for you are all one in Christ Jesus.

D. Complementarianism – equal redemptively – differing roles that complement one another.

E. What is the position of LifeHouse Church? **Complementarianism- Equal in Christ differing roles that compliment one another – Men and women are called to disciple others**

F. What does this mean? Everyone gets to play -

G. What qualifies you here: Christ, desire, Character, training, skill, unity

H. We see women deacons, Chloe- pastor of a house church in Corinth, Phillip had 4 daughters that prophesied, Precilla & Aquilla both prophesied, taught and planted a church with Paul.

Joel 2:28 , Acts 2:17 "Your sons and daughters shall prophecy"

1 Co. 11:5 Women, Have your head covered when you pray or prophecy

IV. Conclusion:

- A. Paul is helping Timothy to deal with a specific problem in Ephesus, specifically with the doctrine and beliefs of the Greeks in that community.**
- B. This does not speak to the whole of women's ability to speak, lead or teach in Christian ministry.**
- C. Unfortunately, the traditional non-biblical view has hindered many many laborers voices that have value in making disciples!**

V. Questions for action!

- A. Have you ever been told you cant because of your gender**
- B. Have you been wounded from this teaching**