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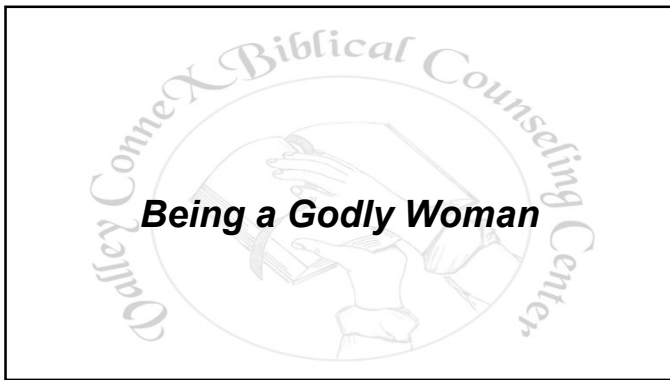
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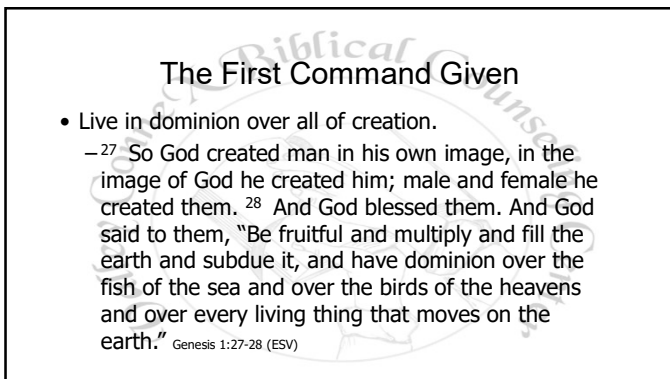
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3

### The First Command Given

- Live in dominion over all of creation.
  - <sup>27</sup> So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them. <sup>28</sup> And God blessed them. And God said to them, "Be fruitful and multiply and fill the earth and subdue it, and have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the heavens and over every living thing that moves on the earth." Genesis 1:27-28 (ESV)

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## The First Command Given

- Genesis 1:27-28 (ESV)
  - Live in dominion over all of creation.
    - Note that this command is given to both male and female
    - People, men and women, are to accept the place as the crown of God's creation and live accordingly.
    - This means we are never to become enslaved by anything in the created order.

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## Clearing the air regarding submission

- Submission is not subjugation
  - Subjugation means that the ability to be self-determining has been taken away. Someone else is in control and the person is reduced to enslavement. This flies in the face of the place God has for us through our Lord Jesus Christ.
    - Luke 4:16-21; John 8:34-36

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## Clearing the air regarding submission

- Submission is not subjugation
  - That very first commandment, Genesis 1:28, should settle this issue. Neither men nor women play a subservient role to the other but are to "submit to one another out of reverence for Christ". (Ephesians 5:21)
  - God has established and endorsed authority structures to which every person, male and female, are to submit with the first line of submission being to God. This informs the submission to every authority which includes church, family and government.

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Godliness begins with an encounter with the Lord Jesus Christ.

- The woman at the well John 4:1-42
- The woman who washed Jesus feet with her tears. Luke 7:36-50
- The woman caught in adultery John 8:2-11

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Godliness continues and is nurtured through ongoing devotion to our Lord Jesus Christ.

- Mary of Bethany Luke 10:38-42; 12:1-8
- Women at the burial and resurrection of Jesus Mark 15:40-47; John 20:1-18

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Standards of godliness specifically addressed to women

- Modesty in appearance 1 Timothy 2:9-10
- Reverent behavior Titus 2:3
- Discerning speech Titus 2:3
- Free from controlling substances Titus 2:3

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### Standards of godliness specifically addressed to women

- Instruct other women in godliness Titus 2:3b-5
  - God's order and plan for the family
  - Self-control (self-discipline)
  - Moral purity
  - Industry
  - Kindness
  - Live in such a way that people are attracted to God.

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### Godliness flows from submission to the Holy Spirit. Galatians 5:16-25

- The two choices we have is to live by our desires or to submit to God's Spirit.
  - <sup>6</sup> For to set the mind on the flesh is death, but to set the mind on the Spirit is life and peace. Romans 8:6 (ESV)
    - Women have tremendous power to influence for evil leading to death or good leading to life.
      - Eve's influence in the Garden of Eden (Genesis 3; Romans 5:12-19)
      - Sarai's influence in the matter of Hagar (Genesis 16:1-15)
      - The prophetess in the church at Thyatira (Revelation 2:20-23)

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### Godliness flows from submission to the Holy Spirit. Galatians 5:16-25

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  - <sup>6</sup> For to set the mind on the flesh is death, but to set the mind on the Spirit is life and peace. Romans 8:6 (ESV)
    - Women have tremendous power to influence for evil leading to death or good leading to life.
      - Abigail's influence in the matter of David's request of Nabal (1 Samuel 25:32-35)
      - Esther's influence with Ahasuerus (Esther 4:12-17)
      - Lois' and Eunice's influence on Timothy (2 Timothy 1:5)

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Godliness flows from submission to the Holy Spirit. Galatians 5:16-25

- The two choices we have is to live by our desires or to submit to God's Spirit.
  - Living by the desires of the flesh produce the behaviors resulting in the consequence that motivate people to seek counsel.
  - Our work as counselors is to help identify the condition of the heart leading to these infractions. Our goal is confession that leads to repentance, restoration and a life where the fruit of the spirit is formed.

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Godliness flows from submission to the Holy Spirit. Galatians 5:16-25

- The innate power to influence, which God has given to women, coupled with godliness which produces the fruit of the Spirit, can and will be used by God for tremendous blessing.
- Godly women are not disenfranchised or helpless but one of the most powerful dynamics in the world.
- <sup>6</sup> But godliness with contentment is great gain, 1 Timothy 6:6 (ESV)

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