

# Trustworthy Sayings

## 4 – Some Clarity, Some Confusion

### 1 Timothy 2.8-15

Books – some passages are hard to understand (2 Peter 3.16)

#### Clarity

*There is a fundamental difference between men and women (v.8-10)*

- It's no social construct or chronologically-bound norm, but fundamental to Creation
  - Taught through creation narrative and assumed in the men / women commandments
- Exposed at the level of the heart and the heart-level question of each
  - Men: do I have what it takes?
    - Everything is a competition, every open door an opportunity to prove yourself
    - When you add a dose of God in there, you get praying along with “anger and quarreling”
  - Women: do you notice me?
    - The temptation is to be noticed because of what you wear or what you say
    - Paul says let your good works be what draws others attention and speak for you

*Order in church and home is the goal (3.15)*

#### Confusion

*What these verses cannot mean:*

1. Women aren't equal (Genesis 1.27, Galatians 3.28)
2. Women shouldn't learn (v.11)
3. Women aren't gifted (1 Cor. 12.7,11)
4. Women aren't ministers (Romans 16.1)
5. Women can't speak (Acts 21.8-9, 1 Cor. 11.5)
6. Women can't help men (Acts 18.26)
7. Women are go to heaven because of their kids (Acts 4.12)

What I \*think\* this means...

*There is a created order to be acknowledged*

- Genesis 2 – Adam then Even
- Genesis 3 – Deceit, desire for his position

- Leaves men on the hook for taking care of their business and not being passive
- Childbirth then becomes an example of this (v.15) – women acknowledge their created order and follow Jesus with faith, love, holiness, and self-control
  - Of course it does not (and cannot) mean salvation-by-childbirth

*There is commanded order in the church*

- God has given certain responsibility to men in church
  - It is primarily leadership through sacrifice and service
  - It also involves teaching, especially at church, for the health of the Body
- God has given authority to men to carry out that responsibility
  - Not domineering but service
- Elders are to lead and preach / teach (1 Tim 5.17)
  - Elders – plurality of godly men responsible for leading, preaching / teaching
  - Lots of freedom exists beneath that banner (so we don't cut off 50% or more of His gifts to our church family)

Purpose: church order -> church health -> Gospel witness

Questions for Discussion:

1. Who is the most spiritually influential male in your life from your past? Right now? Female from your past? Right now?
2. What are three ways in which you have seen culture negatively impact sexuality and gender? What has been the outcome? Why has it trended this way?
3. How have you seen the heart-level questions mentioned above play out in your own life, your key relationships, and any other areas?
4. Out of the “What these verses cannot mean” list, what is easiest for you to affirm? What is most difficult (if any)? Why?
5. In what way(s) can order bring health to an organization? To the church? How will that help the Gospel penetrate the culture?