

1 Timothy 2:8-15

Subject: Women

One Point: Be a Hoss (Hawsios) – without blemish

To get the full background of 1 Timothy go to the refuel website: www.usfbc.com/refuel
Purpose of 1 Timothy: 1. To direct Timothy to give vigorous personal opposition to the false doctrine developing in Ephesus (1:3). 2. To instruct Timothy about the kind of behavior that should characterize Ephesian believers as members of “God’s household. (3:15)”

Last week: **Pray Tell**

From pray (“ask (politely)”) + tell (“explain”) It literally means “Please do tell”

So here is what I want you to do: pray tell – ask God/intercede for the lost and then tell them (explain the knowledge of the truth)

Ever wonder about certain passages in the Bible? The ones you hope really aren’t true? We are looking at one of those today and the topic is women’s roles in the church. As the false teachers were growing, gender roles were being confused. They had influenced the women to follow them in rebellion from their home responsibilities and selfishly claw their way to a position of dominance within the local church.

During the rise of Christianity, women in the church were actually permitted to learn which was counter-cultural to Hellenistic and Jewish traditions. This actually caused many of the issues we are going to read about today.

v. 8 – This was the common prayer posture in Judaism and early Christianity.

The Hebrews used their hands to express both their dependence on God and their respect for Him. Lifting their hands symbolized an expectant attitude and trust in God – that he would fill their empty hands with his blessings.

However, this was one of many postures for prayers. Some others are: (Kneeling, praying with palms up, or down, hands folded, or the Tebow) Instead of a way to stand while praying Paul was referring to a pre-requisite for prayer.

Holy – *hosios*, (Hawseos) undefiled by sin, free from wickedness, without blemish

Hands – symbolized the activities of life. – The basis of prayer is a righteous life

James 5:16 – “Therefore confess your sins to each other and pray for each other so that you may be healed. The prayer of a righteous man is powerful and effective.”

This can only be done without anger or disputing.

v.9 - In the Ephesian church extravagant clothing, hair styles and jewelry were becoming distracting to the worshippers. There would be towers of hair adorned with pearls, gold and other things to bring attention to themselves. The clothing also became a distraction through immodest clothing as well as just extravagant clothing. This was important because that “style” was associated in both Jewish and Hellenistic (Greek) traditions as a license for sexuality.

As a result, some of the women in the church were living lives of impurity (5:11-15). Because of this their inappropriate behavior carried over into the worship services of the church. To which not just the clothing was a distraction but also what people were doing outside of worship that everyone in the church knew about. Kind of like the church clothes song: “Plus I know ol’ girl a

freak/ Now how she singin a solo. I walked in the church wit a snapback/ And they tellin me that that's a "nono"?"

These women were calling attention to themselves and becoming a distraction to everyone around them through their clothing and lifestyle. Ever know someone like that? Someone who calls attention to themselves for just their own benefit? People who say they are worshipping but are putting on a show so that you know they are worshipping, people who go to church or come to BCM just because they want to "look good." You know what I'm talking about? This could also be those girls who are all over their man during worship when their focus should be on worship! Have you ever sat behind someone like that? It is hard to worship because they are truly drawing attention to themselves. I'm not talking about holding hands but like kissing, or touching! Basically being distracting and putting the focus on themselves.

Paul was calling out people for their lack of focus on God. This began with the modesty issue. How do you stay modest as a lady? Here is what Paul says – don't wear things that draw attention to yourself in ways that dishonor God. He is not banning jewelry or clothing (certain types, maybe big hats or purple suits – those are distracting!) but he implies that they should be practiced in a manner that does not invite undue attention. This is for women and men. How do you make yourself attractive? When you look in the mirror what kind of attention are you inviting? Are you inviting arousal? Or are you attracting people to you by the good things you do for the Lord?

Today's message is not about clothing options – there are tons of modest clothing options out there. We can argue what is modest or not through the finger rule, what attention short shorts bring, tight clothing, spandex, etc. But that is something you have to deal with between you and God. Annie and I constantly have this conversation because of being on campus (and at IOA yesterday!) and sometimes even we don't agree. But as a guy I can tell you what guys think with certain clothing options. Guys – you aren't exempt either. This applies to you as well. What attention does your clothing bring? Just please, no scarves.

Paul wanted the women during worship to cultivate the fear of God rather than vanity. I met a guy the other day who shaved his head because it was causing him to worry about his hair more than he should have. He would get up and mess with his hair for a long time. Then, throughout the day he would worry how he looked constantly. God convicted him of this and as a result he now shaves his head. One benefit is that he says he has saved a ton of money from haircuts, shampoo and gel!

Modesty – comes from moderation which during this time meant self-control, in this situation self-control over sexual passions.

Decency and propriety – this means to dress with modesty mixed with humility. It also refers to the grief over sin. This refers to inner virtues.

So, Godly women hate sin and control their passions so as not to lead another into sin.

Are you wearing modesty mixed with humility? I've never thought of what I wear in that way!

"The women are to show their religion not by barefaced dazzle but character and conduct."

v. 11 – Letting women learn was something that probably came as a shock to the churches in Ephesus. This was unheard of and a crazy idea. Paul wanted women to be taught the Holy Scriptures. In fact the Greek word isn't just a verb but an imperative, a command that women be taught in the church. So Paul ignores his own Jewish heritage and comes from the standpoint here that the role of women is to also spread the Gospel. His command encourages women to listen to God's message so that they may learn the essentials for Christian growth and development.

The environment was already hostile because of the false teachers. So he tells Timothy that the women should learn in quietness and full submission. He wanted an environment that allowed the Pastor/Teacher to teach the Gospel without any interruptions from protestors and violators of the Word of God. But, this really was more about a women's attitude in learning. He wanted women to have a teachable spirit. This also led into being submissive. He wanted women to submit to the teacher as he was teaching and submit to what the Bible said. Not submission in the way of giving up of your mind or rights.

Every believer is called to be submissive – Eph 5:21 tells us to submit to each other. No believer is above any other. Galatians 3:28 – tells us we are equal in our standing before God. Wives are to submit to their husbands and children to their parents – Ephesians 6. Believers must submit to the government laws and ordinances (Romans 13:1). Younger men must submit to older men (1 Peter 5:5). Every believer is to be submissive in the ways God ordained.

v. 12 – Teach - *didaskō* – Better translated as “to be a teacher.”

a) to hold discourse with others in order to instruct them, deliver didactic discourses

b) to be a teacher

c) to discharge the office of a teacher, conduct one's self as a teacher

Paul here is talking about an important, official function of the church. The office and role of a teacher was the role of the pastor. Women could teach but not in a way that had authority over men.

The people who had authority over men and women were the elders as it says in 5:17 – “The elders who direct the affairs of the church well are worthy of double honor, especially those whose work is preaching and teaching”. In 3:2, 5 Paul tells Timothy that these people are to be men.

This section comes from the fact that the women in the church were gullible and unstable
1 Timothy 5:11-15 and 2 Timothy 3:6-7

1 Timothy 5:11-15

“¹¹As for younger widows, do not put them on such a list. For when their sensual desires overcome their dedication to Christ, they want to marry. ¹²Thus they bring judgment on themselves, because they have broken their first pledge. ¹³Besides, they get into the habit of being idle and going about from house to house. And not only do they become idlers, but also gossips and busybodies, saying things they ought not to. ¹⁴So I counsel younger widows to marry, to have children, to manage their homes and to give the enemy no opportunity for slander. ¹⁵Some have in fact already turned away to follow Satan.”

2 Tim 3:6-7

“⁶They are the kind who worm their way into homes and gain control over weak-willed women, who are loaded down with sins and are swayed by all kinds of evil desires,⁷ always learning but never able to acknowledge the truth.”

There are other instances in the Bible where women prophesied/taught: 1 Corinthians 11:5 and Acts 18:24-26 are just two examples.

“However, something Paul never mentions in all of Scripture is that women are not incompetent to serve in the office of elder. His concern was for marriages in the church” and the role created by God.

v. 13 – Many people within the church used to believe that a woman is in a lesser standing than men when it came to their role. However, this is not true. Paul then defends his previous statement by giving the reason why women could not essentially be a pastor. Let’s start from the beginning and work our way to today. God’s perfect design for women and men began in the Garden of Eden as Paul mentions here. God establishes women’s role as a part of His original creation when God made women after man to be his suitable helper (Genesis 2:18).

v. 14 – The Fall (biting of the forbidden fruit and going against God) actually confirms God’s divine plan of Creation (Gen 3:1-7). You see God created Eve’s/Women’s nature to not assume the position of ultimate responsibility. She was created as a helper for man (not the make me a sandwich kind of way). But, she left Adam’s protection, going against his leadership, and became vulnerable and fell, confirming how important it was for her to stay under his protection and leadership. This is confirmed by Paul constantly telling Timothy to protect women in chapter 5 and in 2 Timothy 3. Then along comes stupid Adam who violates his own leadership role and follows Eve into sin, thereby plunging all of us and the rest of the human race into sinfulness – thanks Mcfly. Adam and Even both violated God’s perfect plan for gender roles. All this to say, the responsibility for the Fall rests with Adam since he chose to disobey God. Women...you win.

v. 15 – This verse does not mean that you must give birth to a kid (not to be confused with a dog) in order to be saved if you are a woman. That would completely contradict the whole salvation through grace by faith alone thing. However, since women were known to be the instruments of how sin entered the world, they can be restored from that view by raising a generation of godly children. If you look at what Mary did by birthing and raising Jesus Christ – She was a great woman who God used to perform a miracle that saved us all from our sins. That’s why many catholic churches hail Mary as a saint!

In fact Jesus constantly gave honor to women during His time on earth – Luke 8:2-3

Women, generally, spend more time raising children. Especially in today’s day and age as men are becoming more and more sinful by leaving their wives or just not helping them in raising the children and letting them take care of everything. Guys, your responsibility is to be a part of the family, not some distant person who pays the bills. Be involved, help the girls out. Don’t just be the husband, but be an equal part of the marriage, as well as a dad.

Paul ends with the propriety word again which means “grief over sin.”

Ladies – continue to show the guys that you will always show faith, love, and holiness with a hatred for sin. That’s how you do verse 10 – showing yourself beautiful with good deeds.

So What

“Paul’s point was that men, including those in Ephesus, are more susceptible to mistake and error when they carelessly surrender leadership to the woman.”

Let me unpack this: I have been on this committee called SLEG – We constantly have a conversation about where are all the guys to step up in leadership. We have plenty of females. But guys are acting immature, unstable, and gullible. Sound familiar? Therefore, they are letting more and more girls take this university’s leadership positions in places like Student Government, which makes a majority of the decisions that affect your schooling. They are saying that this is happening because guys don’t want the responsibility.

All Christians are called to ministry as it says in Ephesians 4:12 – whether you are male or female. Many women in history have made some amazing contributions to furthering the Gospel: Lottie Moon, Annie Armstrong, and Susanna Wesley (mother of John and Charles Wesley, mother of Methodism).

But...I think it is more than that, I think that all of us need to live a life of holiness. When guys do this, they will stop chasing women as much and things of this world that do not honor God. They will desire holiness and not sin. The same goes for girls. When girls start dressing more modestly, guys will not be aroused as much, their focus will not become you but on becoming the man of God they need to be. Then, you can focus on your relationship with God instead of fending off creepers constantly.

Guys, you need to live a life that allows you to lift up your holy hands.

Girls, you need to live a life that helps guys grow in their faith by mixing modesty with humility.

Now What

How do you do this? Find a model

a. Guys find a leader in your church (not necessarily someone on staff) who can just guide you like Paul guided Timothy. Who can help you lift up holy hands and live a *hosios* life (without blemish). Share your life with them and let them have authority over what you say and do.

b. Girls find a lady in your church who is mixing modesty with humility and latch on to them so that you will grieve over sin and never want to do it! Spend as much time with them as possible... without being creepy. A couple of years back a girl at the BCM took that literally and stalked this lady to a Pilates class and scared the crap out of her! However, it worked and now they are both doing Pilates and meeting regularly!

We need to find someone who can guide us to this place, a place where we live a *hosios* life, a life without blemish. When we do this, we will be a *hoss*. We will understand why we were created different than the other gender and we will live a life that is parallel to how God had it back in the garden of Eden, in peace.

What criticisms have you heard about women and Christianity?