

## BIBLICAL ROLES / PART I

*From the series – 1 TIMOTHY: EVERY MOMENT, EVERY DAY*

### SUMMARY...

The Bible is filled with texts that will challenge us either *relationally, mentally, emotionally or spiritually*. [1 Timothy 2:11-15](#) is one of those texts that will challenge us in each of those areas. Unfortunately, this text has also caused division and hurt within the church, specifically for women. The Apostle Paul penned these words guided by the Holy Spirit to encourage and liberate women, not to limit them within the body of Christ. These few verses understood in the proper context and applied correctly will only serve to help the body of Christ flourish and reach more people with the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

### THINGS TO KEEP IN MIND...

The 1<sup>st</sup> century was a male-dominated, male-centric culture. Women were not only prevented from learning, they were not even permitted to worship God alongside the men in the community. But when Jesus' ministry began, in word and deed He began to break down all sorts of cultural barriers and beliefs about women. And the Apostle Paul made clear that there is no difference between male and female – that in Christ, we are all one – see [Galatians 3:28](#).

It is important to understand this context when approaching [1 Timothy 2:11-15](#). The historical background helps us understand that this text is not limiting women but actually liberating for women. Biblical roles are not a statement against biblical equality between men and women, rather, biblical roles provide a beautiful picture of God's design in creation. Men and women are called to embrace our God-given roles and compliment one another so that the beauty and power of the gospel message can go forth.

Finally, a note on child-bearing (1 Timothy 2:15). Even among biblical scholars, there is debate about the meaning of this verse. To be sure, Paul is not suggesting that women can experience salvation only if they bear children. Rather, it is the reminder that salvation comes through the birth, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ himself.

### CONNECT...

As a GROUP, take a few minutes to share your background regarding biblical roles within the church growing up. Was there a difference between men and women's roles? If yes, what were they?

### LEARN... BIBLE STUDY & DISCUSSION

1. Read [1 Timothy 2:11-15](#). What do you find most challenging about this text? What is your typical first response when you come across challenging scripture verses like 1 Timothy 2:11-15?
2. Read [John 6:60, 66-70](#) & [2 Timothy 3:16](#) – according to these passages, what are the two possible responses to challenging scripture? In what ways have you walked away from a challenging text, or tried to interpret it to your liking? What is needed to best approach Scripture, specifically challenging texts like 1 Timothy 2:11-15?
3. Read [1 Timothy 2:11-15](#) – the exhortation that Paul gives to the women of the church is to 'learn.' The problem is not so much with this exhortation as is the posture that women should learn from.

How are we to understand “quietly” and “submissively”? How has our current culture influenced the way we interpret these words? How does God want us to interpret these instructions?

4. Read [1 Timothy 2:11-13](#) – “teaching” and “authority” are connected to the role of elder/pastor. Paul says that this role is reserved for called and qualified men (see also [1 Timothy 3:1-7](#) which we will examine more next week). How does God’s design in creation, specifically creation order, help us understand why this role is reserved for men?
5. Read [1 Timothy 2:14](#) and [Genesis 3:1-7](#) – How did both Adam and Eve abdicate their God-given roles in the Garden of Eden and what impact did that have on biblical roles?
6. Read [1 Timothy 2:15](#) – how best are we to understand this verse? How does the phrase “through child-bearing” shed light on understanding this verse? How would the description of Godly character be uplifting to women, both at that time and now? And how might this verse bring great encouragement to both men and women?

## ACT...

As you pray about your posture towards each other and toward God himself, all are reminded of the challenge given prior to Easter to set APRIL apart in prayer, service, and good works. Co-Ed GROUPS should take time to split by gender to encourage open conversations.

**For the women** – considering the Apostle Paul’s instruction in 1 Timothy 2:11-15, how are you currently using your God given gifts to strengthen and build up the body of Christ?

**For the men** – are there any wrong and/or sinful attitudes that you’ve had towards women that need to be repented of? Specifically, any attitudes that have hurt women from flourishing within the body of Christ? In what ways can you model prayer and service to others in a way that is uplifting to the women around you?

## NEXT STEPS & HAPPENINGS @ GENESIS...

**Chapter ONE** – Sunday, May 2. This class introduces the story of GENESIS.

**FAMILY MEETING** – Sunday, May 16<sup>th</sup> (5 – 6:30 p.m.). Don’t miss this opportunity to hear updates and fresh stories about ALL that is happening within our GENESIS community!

**GROUP 101** – Sunday, May 23<sup>rd</sup> (10 – 11 a.m.). Anyone who wants to learn about the role and expectations of leading a GROUP should attend this informational class.

## SERMON ONLINE –

[www.genesisethejourney.com/sermon/biblical-roles-part-i/](http://www.genesisethejourney.com/sermon/biblical-roles-part-i/)