

God's Plan for Women in the Church, Part 14

John MacArthur

I. Introduction.

A. Text: 1 Timothy 2:9-15.

B. The church at Ephesus had to deal with many false teachers. Paul visited to set some things right and left Timothy to lead them. 1 Timothy is a polemic against false leaders who have entered the church.

C. Paul gives six elements of instruction regarding how women are to behave within the church.

II. Appearance.

III. Attitude.

IV. Action.

V. Role.

A. This looks to women's function in the church.

B. In contrast to many cultures of the time, Paul says that women are to learn.

C. However, women were not to teach, preach or rule.

1. This is why there were no women apostles or teachers in the Bible.

2. This is not an issue of equality--it is one of role.

3. The verbs are present tense indicating that they have an ongoing effect.

D. There are still women today who seek to rule, which is a conflict that comes from the fall. (Genesis 3:15-16)

E. The only true intent of the text is to prohibit women teaching men.

F God does not violate his own principles to get what he wants done.

G. Subjection is a privilege not punishment.

H. Woman's place was determined by the place of creation. (1 Corinthians 8, Genesis 2:18-25)

1. The tendency to follow was built into a female.

2. The fall confirms that women need protection.

3. Women have a deceivability outside the headship of man.

4. A woman is not more subjected by the fall. Men and women are defective in different ways.

VI. Women's contribution: she shall be saved through childbearing.

1. The stigma of the fall is on women.

2. Childbearing releases women from this stigma. She may be responsible for bringing a generation into sin, but she can be responsible for raising a godly generation. (1 Timothy 5:14)

Application Questions:

1. Why is this such a difficult topic within the church?

2. How can one go about graciously explaining his or her position on women's roles in ministry without causing a fight?

3. What is your position? Which Bible verses best support your view?
