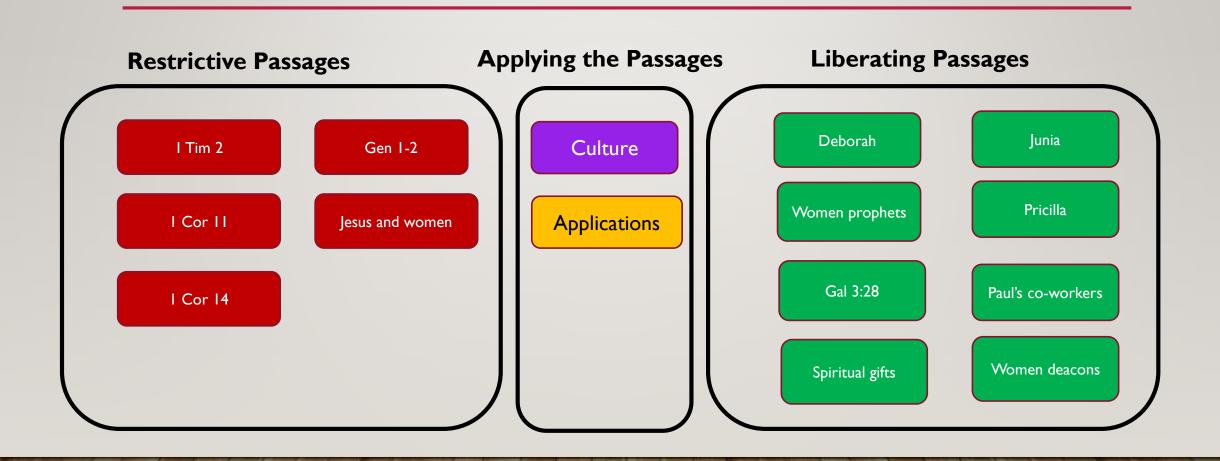
# WOMEN IN MINISTRY

### MAIN MENU



## **OVERVIEW**



I TIM 2:8-15

### **GREEK WOMEN**

Ephesian women married at early age some bethrothed at 2 and married at 14

They are gandmothers at 30 years

Second, since an estimated 50 percent of children in the first century died by age six, girls who made it past that age could expect to live only to their mid-twenties or thirties (men might, on average, live a decade longer)

Ephesian pagan worship women were participants and priestess

Daughters and wives of some of the wealthy families in Ephesus held priesthoods in various cults (especially those with female divinities) under the general oversight of (male) provincial and municipal authorities

Daughters of the upper classes -education for their duties in managing large households.

Did not get educated in philosophy, nor rhetoric or medicine, but they had their own opportunities for intellectual pursuits.

"We have hetaerae for pleasure, pallakae to care for our daily body's needs and gynaekes to bear us legitimate children and to be faithful guardians of our households."

**Demosthenes** 

### **HERESIES**

- False wannabe teachers | Timothy 1:3-7
- Antimarraige and legalism in food laws | Timothy 4:1-3
- Deviant doctrines for money I Timothy 6:2-5
- Heresy of superior knowledge I Timothy 6:20-21
- Overrealised eschatology I Timothy 6:20-21, I Tim 1:20 or 2 Tim 2:18 -emancipation of women side effect
- Busybody women | Timothy 5:11-13
- False teachers were men 2 Timothy 2:16-18, 2 Timothy 2:16-18
- Victims were women (1 Tim. 5:11–15; 2 Tim. 3:5–9)
- Artemis cult speculated based on presence of the goddess but no direct evidence

# **HERESY**

### FALSE WANNABE TEACHERS

• I Timothy I:3-7 (ESV) As I urged you when I was going to Macedonia, remain at Ephesus so that you may charge certain persons not to teach any different doctrine, 4 nor to devote themselves to myths and endless genealogies, which promote speculations rather than the stewardship from God that is by faith. 5 The aim of our charge is love that issues from a pure heart and a good conscience and a sincere faith. 6 Certain persons, by swerving from these, have wandered away into vain discussion, 7 desiring to be teachers of the law, without understanding either what they are saying or the things about which they make confident assertions.

Non geneder specific false teachers

### ANTI MARRIAGE, LEGALISTIC FOOD LAWS

• I Timothy 4:1-3 (ESV) Now the Spirit expressly says that in later times some will depart from the faith by devoting themselves to deceitful spirits and teachings of demons, 2 through the insincerity of liars whose consciences are seared, 3 who forbid marriage and require abstinence from foods

### DEVIANT DOCTRINE FOR MONEY

• I Timothy 6:2-5 (ESV) Teach and urge these things. 3 If anyone teaches a different doctrine and does not agree with the sound words of our Lord Jesus Christ and the teaching that accords with godliness, 4 he is puffed up with conceit and understands nothing. He has an unhealthy craving for controversy and for quarrels about words, which produce envy, dissension, slander, evil suspicions, 5 and constant friction among people who are depraved in mind and deprived of the truth, imagining that godliness is a means of gain.

### HERESY OF SUPERIOR? KNOWLEDGE

- I Timothy 6:20-21 (ESV) O Timothy, guard the deposit entrusted to you. Avoid the irreverent babble and contradictions of what is falsely called "knowledge," 21 for by professing it some have swerved from the faith.
- Grace be with you.

### OVER REALIZED ESCHATOLOGY

2 Timothy 2:16-18 (ESV) But avoid irreverent babble, for it will lead people into more and more ungodliness, 17 and their talk will spread like gangrene. Among them are Hymenaeus and Philetus, 18 who have swerved from the truth, saying that the resurrection has already happened. They are upsetting the faith of some.

### BUSY BODY WOMEN –BUT NOT FALSE TEACHERS

• I Timothy 5:11-13 (ESV) But refuse to enroll younger widows, for when their passions draw them away from Christ, they desire to marry 12 and so incur condemnation for having abandoned their former faith. 13 Besides that, they learn to be idlers, going about from house to house, and not only idlers, but also gossips and busybodies, saying what they should not

### FALSE TEACHERS WERE MEN

- 2 Timothy 2:16-18 (ESV) But avoid irreverent babble, for it will lead people into more and more ungodliness, 17 and their talk will spread like gangrene. Among them are <u>Hymenaeus</u> and <u>Philetus</u>, 18 who have swerved from the truth, saying that the resurrection has already happened. They are upsetting the faith of some.
- 2 Timothy 4:14-15 (ESV) <u>Alexander the coppersmith</u> did me great harm; the Lord will repay him according to his deeds. 15 Beware of him yourself, for he strongly opposed our message.
- Victims were women (1 Tim. 5:1 1–15; 2 Tim. 3:5–9)

### PRECISE NATURE OF THE HERESY

- Overrealised eschatology I Tim I:20 or 2 Tim 2:18 -emancipation of women side effect
- Artemis cult speculated based on presence of the goddess but no direct evidence

### **PUBLIC WORSHIP**

• I Timothy 2:8-12 (ESV) 8 I desire then that in **every place** the men should pray, lifting holy hands without anger or quarreling; 9 likewise also that **women** should adorn themselves in respectable apparel, with modesty and self-control, not with braided hair and gold or pearls or costly attire, I0 but with what is proper for women who profess godliness—with good works. I I Let a **woman** learn quietly with all submissiveness. I2 I do not permit **a woman** to teach or to exercise authority over a man; rather, she is to remain quiet.

# THE GREEK WORD USED FOR WOMEN OR WIVES?

### **GYNE**

### GYNE CHERA

### **PARTENON**

A Female

Widow

Young woman

B.Wife

Determined by context

• 10 -24 years old

Hence, in antiquity the term woman ( $\gamma \nu \nu \dot{\gamma}$ ) typically referred to a female who was married and might be a thirty-five-year-old grandmother but might also be a fifteen-year-old mother who had just given birth to her first child (with a husband who might be five to thirty years her senior).

### IF WIFE

 Means wives cannot teach their husbands and women can teach men (Gordon Hugenberger)

#### **Determinative**



I Peter 3:1 (ESV) Likewise, **wives**, be subject to your own husbands, so that even if some do not obey the word, they may be won without a word by the conduct of their **wives** 

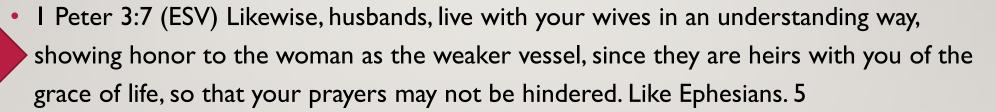
Titus 2:3-5 (ESV) Older **women** likewise are to be reverent in behavior, not slanderers or slaves to much wine. They are to teach what is good, 4 and so train the young **women** to love their husbands and children, 5 to be self-controlled, pure, working at home, kind, and submissive to their own husbands,

### PROBLEM— I PETER 3 HAS RECIPROCAL SECTIONS I TIM 2 HAS NOT

Hence it is more likely to be referring to men and women in general

#### Idious

• I Peter 3:1-2 (ESV) Likewise, wives, be subject to your <u>own</u> husbands, so that even if some do not obey the word, they may be won without a word by the conduct of their wives, 2 when they see your respectful and pure conduct.....(Unbelieving husbands)



There is reciprocal section on husbands responsibilities

Passage is obviously about husbands and wives whilst I Tim 2 there is no reciprocal responsibilities of husbands

### RECIPROCAL SECTION OBVIOUSLY REFERS TO WIVES

- Colossians 3:18-20 (ESV) Wives, submit to your husbands, as is fitting in the Lord. 19 Husbands, love your wives, and do not be harsh with them. 20 Children, obey your parents in everything, for this pleases the Lord.
- Ephesians 5:22-25 (ESV) <u>Wives</u>, submit to your <u>own husbands</u>, as to the Lord. 23 For the <u>husband</u> is the head of the wife even as Christ is the head of the church, his body, and is himself its Savior. 24 Now as the church submits to Christ, so also wives should submit in everything to their husbands.
- 25 Husbands, love your wives, as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her,

### PUBLIC WORSHIP

More likely worship setting as there is activity of prayer and teaching

the men should pray, lifting holy hands without anger or quarreling; 9 likewise also that women should adorn themselves in respectable apparel, with modesty and self-control, not with braided hair and gold or pearls or costly attire, 10 but with what is proper for women who profess godliness—with good works.

general admonition for dress code good works more in line with all women not just wives

Flow of the letter better for public setting as Tim is exhorted to counter false teach and appoint elders and deacons which are public offices, Hence unlikely in the midst of this Paul would insert teaching on wives and husbands

### ADMONITION TO WOMEN

Applies to all women Present active imperative

• I Timothy 2:11-12 (ESV) Let a woman learn quietly with all submissiveness. I2 I do not permit a woman to teach or to exercise authority over a man; rather, she is to remain quiet.

The manner of learning

Submissiveness to whom ? God, Congregation, Sound teaching, Contemporary social structure It is to man...all men or certain men

ἐπιτρέπω..present active indicative

• I Timothy 2:11-12 (ESV) Let a woman learn quietly with all submissiveness. I 2 I do not permit a woman to teach or to exercise authority over a man; rather, she is to remain quiet.

Egalitarians – not imperative so it must be temporary in junction

# PRESENT ACTIVE INDICATIVE AS COMMANDS NEITHER ARE THESE INJUNCTIONS TEMPORARY

- I Timothy 2:1 (ESV) First of all, then, I <u>urge</u> that supplications, prayers, intercessions, and thanksgivings be made for all people,
- ROM 12:1 I <u>appeal</u> to you therefore, brothers, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice

### **AUTHENTEIN**

• I Timothy 2:11-12 (ESV) Let a woman learn quietly with all submissiveness. I 2 I do not permit a woman to teach or to exercise authority over a man; rather, she is to remain quiet.



Positive sense of word..exercise authority over

Negative sense of word..Domineer over

What indicates a positive or negative use of authority is the context

### CATHERINE KROEGER

- Engage in fertility cults Catherine Kroeger 1979 no evidence
- Proclaim herself as author or originator of man Catherine Kroeger 1979 No evidence
- Instigate violence Paul Wiltshire 1988 no evidence

### **AUTHENTEIN**

- Hapax Legomenon
- Used 114 times in all of surviving Greek literature
- Colloquil word
- Kin murderer ....Master

- "have authority"
- "be superior to"
- "originate"
- "<u>rule"</u>
- "act on one's own".



## DIDASKEIN HAS TO BE POSITIVE EVEN THOUGH AUTHENTEIN CAN BE DEBATED

to teach or to exercise authority

Infinitive + oude. + Infinitive

Negative Negative

I do not permit women to teach falsely or to have domineer over men

Positive Positive

I do not permit women to teach or to have authority over men

# REASON FOR PROHIBITION

### THREE REASONS

I Timothy 2:12-15 (ESV) I do not permit a woman to teach or to exercise authority over a man; rather, she is to remain quiet.
 I3 For Adam was formed first, then Eve;
 I4 and Adam was not deceived, but the woman was deceived and became a transgressor.
 I5 Yet she will be saved through childbearing—if they continue in faith and love and holiness, with self-control.

## COMMONALITIES IN ALL THREE PASSAGES

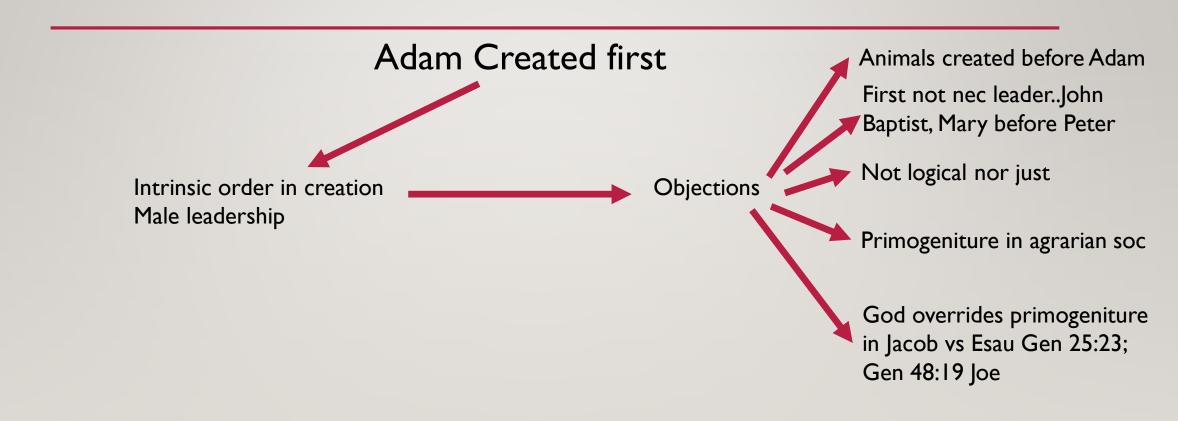
	I Cor II	I Cor 14	I Tim 2
Restrictions	Wives can pray and prophesy but use head covering	Wives cannot weigh prophecy of men.	Wives cannot teach or have authority over men
Rationale	Issue-shame and gender distinction	Issue-shame and submission	Issue is submission
Theology	Law invoked Genesis 2 Woman created for man Cannot be superceded cultural issue	Law invoked Genesis 2 Cannot be superceded cultural issue	Law invoked Genesis 2 and 3 Adam created first Cannot be superceded cultural issue

# I.ADAM FORMED FIRST

13 For Adam was formed first, then Eve;

### **IMPLICATIONS**

13 For Adam was formed first, then Eve;



# 2. WOMEN BEING DECEIVED

I Timothy 2:13-14 (ESV) 13 For Adam was formed first, then Eve; 14 and Adam was not deceived, but the woman was deceived and became a transgressor.

### 2ND REASON

a. Women more easily deceived so cannot teach

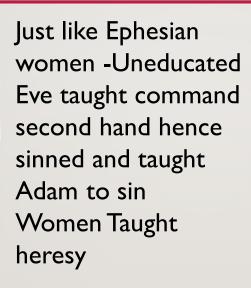
b. This was used as example and analogy

c. This was due to male leadership being usurped contrary to creation order

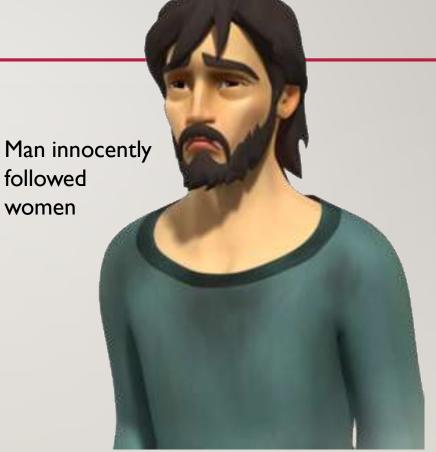
- I Timothy 2:12-15 (ESV) I do not permit a woman to teach or to exercise authority over a man; rather, she is to remain quiet.
- 13 For Adam was formed first, then Eve;
- 14 and Adam was not deceived, but the woman was deceived and became a transgressor.
- I5 Yet she will be saved through childbearing—if they continue in faith and love and holiness, with self-control.

#### EVE WAS DECEIVED AND TAUGHT ADAM

Who were the Ephesian false teachers?



Situational not normative



#### FALSE TEACHERS WERE MEN

#### WHY BANTHE WOMEN WHEN MEN WERE THE PROBLEMS

- 2 Timothy 2:16-18 (ESV) But avoid irreverent babble, for it will lead people into more and more ungodliness, 17 and their talk will spread like gangrene. Among them are <u>Hymenaeus</u> and <u>Philetus</u>, 18 who have swerved from the truth, saying that the resurrection has already happened. They are upsetting the faith of some.
- 2 Timothy 4:14-15 (ESV) <u>Alexander the coppersmith</u> did me great harm; the Lord will repay him according to his deeds. 15 Beware of him yourself, for he strongly opposed our message.
- Victims were women (1 Tim. 5:1 1–15; 2 Tim. 3:5–9)

#### PRESENCE OF EDUCATED WOMEN

I Timothy 2:9-10 (ESV) likewise also that women should adorn themselves in respectable apparel, with modesty and self-control, not with braided hair and gold or pearls or costly attire, I0 but with what is proper for women who profess godliness—with good works.

## WOMEN MORE EASILY DECEIVED (GULLIBLE )SO CANNOT TEACH



Ontologically and intellectually inferior Easily Deceived

- I.Women teach other women and children (2 Tim. 1:5; 3:15; Titus 2:3–4),
- 2. Goes against Gods goodness in creation
- 3. Given same educational opportunities research has shown women not more gullible

Adam greater culpability so why prohibit women?





#### **DELIBERATE SIN**

- Eve was deceived
- Genesis 3:6 (ESV) So when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was a delight to the eyes, and that the tree was to be desired to make one wise, she took of its fruit and ate, and she also gave some to her husband who was with her, and he ate
- Not because of lack of teaching or stupid but moral failure --deliberate

#### **B.ARGUMENT BY ANALOGY**



• 2 Corinthians II:2-3 (ESV) For I feel a divine jealousy for you, since I betrothed you to one husband, to present you as a pure virgin to Christ. 3 But I am afraid that as the serpent deceived Eve by his cunning, your thoughts will be led astray from a sincere and pure devotion to Christ

# C. This was due to male leadership being usurped contrary to creation order

Adam was present in the temptation but did not intervene

The serpent was craftier than all over animals and hence subverted male leadership and approached the woman. Hence the danger in church if male leadership is subverted in women having authority over men

Evidence

God sought out Adam to anwser first not Eve

Romans 5:12 (ESV) Therefore, just as sin came into the world through one man, and death through sin, and so death spread to all men because all sinned

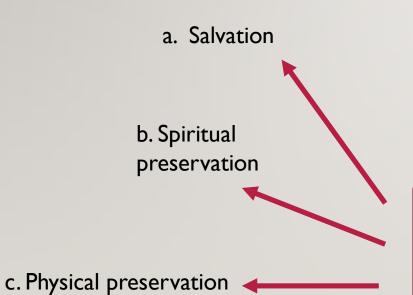
#### CULPABILITY OF SIN IS MALE

- God sought out Adam to anwser first not Eve
- Romans 5:12 (ESV) Therefore, just as sin came into the world through one man, and death through sin, and so death spread to all men because all sinned

# 3. WOMEN BEING SAVED THROUGH CHILDBIRTH

I Timothy 2:15 (ESV) 15 Yet she will be saved through childbearing—if they continue in faith and love and holiness, with self-control.

#### 3RD REASON



- I Timothy 2:12-15 (ESV) I do not permit a woman to teach or to exercise authority over a man; rather, she is to remain quiet.
- 13 For Adam was formed first, then Eve;
- I4 and Adam was not deceived, but the woman was deceived and became a transgressor.
- 15 Yet she will be <u>saved</u> through <u>childbearing</u>—if they continue in faith and love and holiness, with self-control.

#### ANTI MARRIAGE, LEGALISTIC FOOD LAWS

• I Timothy 4:1-3 (ESV) Now the Spirit expressly says that in later times some will depart from the faith by devoting themselves to deceitful spirits and teachings of demons, 2 through the insincerity of liars whose consciences are seared, 3 who forbid marriage and require abstinence from foods

- False teachers with over-realized eschatology forbid marriage and if they forbid marriage then more than likely be against child bearing
- Paul selects this specifically to counter the false teacher

## SAVED BY ADHERING TO THEIR DIVINELY APPOINTED ROLE

- It is appropriate because it is fulfilment of a womans domestic role as a mother as
  distinct from men
- Paul, then, probably highlighted childbearing by synecdoche as representing the appropriate role for women.
- Most notable example of the divinely intended difference in roles between men and women

#### 3RD REASON

works are evidence of faith and their faith role is child birth and faith and love.. These virtues are emblematic of a new life in Christ

Abiding in godly virtues and obeying apostolic instruction are necessary for salvation; they are necessary because they function as the evidence of new life in Christ.

I Timothy 2:12-15 (ESV) I do not permit a woman to teach or to exercise authority over a man; rather, she is to remain quiet. I3 For Adam was formed first, then Eve; I4 and Adam was not deceived, but the woman was deceived and became a transgressor.

15 Yet she will be saved through childbearing—

if they continue in faith and love and holiness, with self-control.

Woman living a godly life and conforming to her God-ordained role. These good works are necessary to obtain eschatological salvation.

#### SUMMARY—I TIM 2 INJUNCTION

- Ephesian women should not arrogate an official teaching and authority role for themselves
- They should learn submissively and quietly from the elders
- Reason I: Creation order. The creation of Adam before Eve signaled that men are to teach and exercise authority in the church.
- Reason 2: Eve, beguiled by the Serpent, took leadership in responding to the Serpent. Adam, although he was with Eve, failed to intervene and exercise proper leadership. Instead, he allowed Eve to respond improperly to the Serpent. Even though Eve was the first to sin, Paul assigned the responsibility for sin primarily to Adam (Rom. 5:12–19).
- Reason 3: Women will experience eschatological salvation by adhering to their proper role, which is exemplified in giving birth to children and expressing other Christian virtues as evidence of their salvation.

### APPLICATION OF 1 TIM 2 INJUNCTIONS

#### THE ISSUE WITH I TIM 2 PASSAGE

Situational

Normative

### CONTEXTUAL NATURE OF PASSAGE IF CAN DISREGARD HAND RAISING OF HANDS THEN TEACHING IS CONTEXTUAL

I Timothy 2:8-10 (ESV) I desire then that in every place the men should pray, <u>lifting holy hands</u> without anger or quarreling; 9 likewise also that women should adorn themselves in respectable apparel, with modesty and self-control, <u>not with braided hair and gold or pearls or costly attire</u>, 10 but with what is proper for women who profess godliness—with good works.

#### PRACTICE AND PRINCIPLE

Clothing and adornment

Modesty Emphasis on character

Can separate it?

Can we wear gold in a society where it does not imply shallow charactter

Teaching and authority over men

Male leadership

Can we separate it?

Can women teach in such a way as not to undermine male leadership?

Teach under the authority of male elders

Teaching is exercising authority

#### WE ARE TO TEACH EACH OTHER

 Colossians 3:16 (ESV) Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly, teaching and admonishing one another in all wisdom, singing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, with thankfulness in your hearts to God.

Pricilla teaches Apollos

#### TIMOTHY TAUGHT BY WOMEN

2 Timothy 1:5 (ESV) I am reminded of your sincere faith, a faith that dwelt first in your grandmother Lois and your mother Eunice and now, I am sure, dwells in you as well.

## NON GENDER SPECIFIC NO OFFICE RELATED

- I. Utterance of wisdom,
- 2. Utterance of knowledge
- 3. Faith
- 4. Gifts of healing by the one Spirit,
- 5. Miracles,
- 6. Prophecy,
- 7. Distinguish between spirits,
- 8. Tongues, to another the interpretation of tongues.

- I. Apostles,
- 2. Prophets,
- 3. Teachers,
- 4. Miracles,
- 5. Gifts of healing,
- 6. Helping,
- 7. Administrating,
- 8. Tongues.

• The public transmission of authoritative material ..the authoritative transmission of the tradition Paul had in mind in the Pastoral epistles

#### CONTEXT OF ALL PAULINE EPISTLES

#### 13 Pauline Epistles

One prohibition

Occasional nature of letter

Disputed meaning of authentein

Uncertain cultural context

#### ARGUMENT FOR BEING SITUATION SPECIFIC

Ignores Pauls explanation of Creation design ...male leadership

If I Timothy 2:11–15 can legitimately be understood as a prohibition relevant only for women in a historically specific circumstance (which it can), and if there is no other biblical text that explicitly forbids women to teach or have authority over men (which there is not), and if there are texts that assert the fundamental spiritual equality of women with men (which there are), then women who are not in the circumstance for which the I Timothy 2:12 prohibition was intended may safely follow whatever call they have to ministry. In other words, it ought at least be acknowledged that the traditionalist interpretation is debatable on biblical grounds. This being the case, we should give the benefit of the doubt to any woman who is called to and qualified for pastoral leadership.47

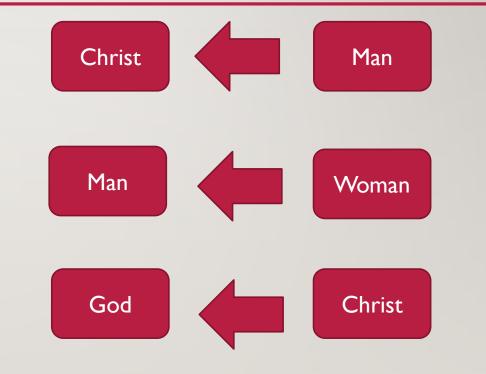
Blomberg, Craig . Two Views on Women in Ministry (Counterpoints: Bible and Theology) (pp. 235-236). Zondervan Academic. Kindle Edition.

### I COR 11:2-16

• I Corinthians II:2-6 (ESV) Now I commend you because you remember me in everything and maintain the traditions even as I delivered them to you. 3 But I want you to understand that the head of every man is Christ, the head of a wife is her husband, and the head of Christ is God. 4 Every man who prays or prophesies with his head covered dishonors his head, 5 but every wife who prays or prophesies with her head uncovered dishonors her head, since it is the same as if her head were shaven. 6 For if a wife will not cover her head, then she should cut her hair short. But since it is disgraceful for a wife to cut off her hair or shave her head, let her cover her head.

#### HE IS DIFFERENTIATING AND ORDERING THE PAIRS

I Corinthians II:3 (ESV) But I want you to understand that the head of every man is
 Christ, the head of a wife is her husband, and the head of Christ is God.



In anticipation to the argument that men and women may lead in prayer as long as they are differentiated by their head gear

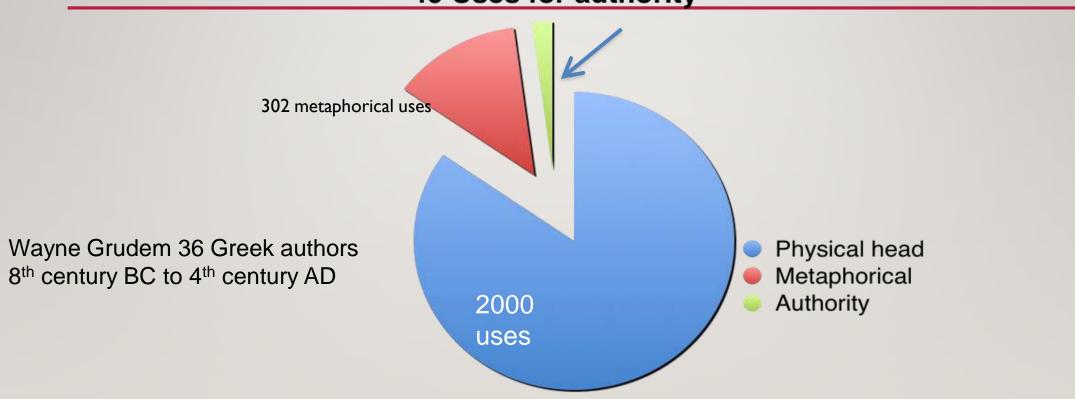
#### KEPHALE-HEAD

- Authority, Supremacy, Leadership
- Source
- Pre-eminence, Representative

Ephesians 5:21 (ESV) submitting to one another out of reverence for Christ.

### The use of kephale

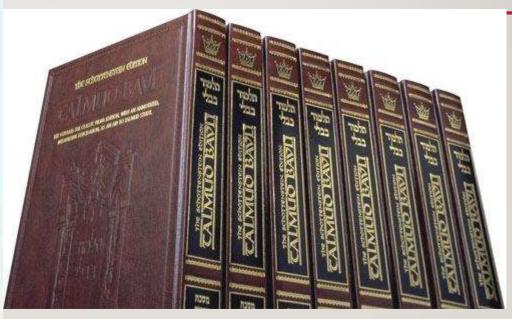
49 Uses for authority



#### Kephale-Pre-eminent, foremost and synecdoche for



#### representative role



Jewish texts

More commonly used in 1st century Greek text than ruler or source

#### SUBMISSION TO EACH OTHER EQUALLY?

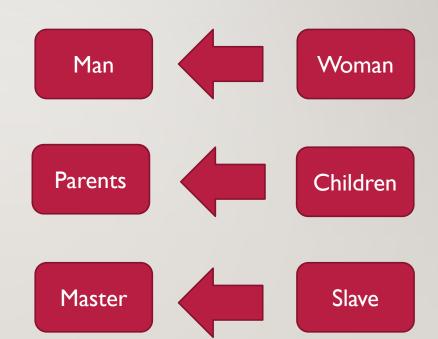
- Ephesians 5:20-26 (ESV) giving thanks always and for everything to God the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, 21 submitting to one another out of reverence for Christ.
- Wives and Husbands
- 22 Wives, submit to your own husbands, as to the Lord. 23 For the husband is the head of the wife even as Christ is the head of the church, his body, and is himself its Savior. 24 Now as the church submits to Christ, so also wives should submit in everything to their husbands.
- 25 Husbands, love your wives, as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her, 26 that he might sanctify her, having cleansed her by the washing of water with the word,

#### DIRECTION OF SUBMISSION-INDICATING ORDER

• Eph 5:22 Wives, submit to your own husbands

• Eph 6:1 Children, obey your parents

• Eph 6:5 Bondservants, obey your earthly masters



#### HEADSHIP DISHONORED BY MEN'S HAIR STYLES

- I Corinthians II:4-6 (ESV) Every man who prays or prophesies with his head covered <u>dishonors his head</u>,
- I Corinthians II:14 (ESV) Does not nature itself teach you that if a man wears long hair it is a disgrace for him,

#### HEADSHIP DISHONORED BY WOMEN'S HAIR STYLES

• I Corinthians II:4-7 (ESV) Every man who prays or prophesies with his head covered dishonors his head, 5 but every wife who prays or prophesies with her <a href="head uncovered dishonors her head">head</a>, since it is the same as if her head <a href="weere shaven">were shaven</a>. 6 For if a wife will not cover her head, then she should cut her <a href="hair short">hair short</a>. But since it is disgraceful for a wife to cut off her hair or shave her head, let her cover her head. 7

#### VIOLATION OF GENDER DIFFERENCES BRING SHAME

#### 2. Argument from created order

• I Corinthians II:7-9 (ESV) For a man ought not to cover his head, since he is the <u>image and glory of God</u>, but woman is the <u>glory of man</u>. 8 For man was not made from woman, but woman from man. 9 Neither was man created for woman, but woman for man. 10 That is why a wife ought to have a symbol of authority on her head, because of the angels.

Proverbs 12:4 (ESV) An excellent wife is the crown of her husband, but she who brings shame is like rottenness in his bones.

#### VIOLATION OF GENDER DIFFERENCES BRING SHAME

#### 3 Argument from angels

• I Corinthians II:7-9 (ESV) For a man ought not to cover his head, since he is the image and glory of God, but woman is the glory of man. 8 For man was not made from woman, but woman from man. 9 Neither was man created for woman, but woman for man. 10 That is why a wife ought to have a symbol of authority on her head, **because of the angels**.

#### VIOLATION OF GENDER DIFFERENCES BRING SHAME

#### 4 Argument from nature

• I Corinthians II:14-15 (ESV) Does not nature itself teach you that if a man wears long hair it is a disgrace for him, I5 but if a woman has long hair, it is her glory? For her hair is given to her for a covering.

## **GENDER EQUALITY**

• I Corinthians II:II-I2 (ESV) Nevertheless, in the Lord woman is not independent of man **nor man of woman**; I2 for as woman was made from man, **so man is now born of woman**. And all things are from God.



WHAT PAUL ADVOCATES



Gender Equality

- Instead, Paul appeals to creation to demonstrate the differences between men and women that God established from the beginning—and violating these distinctions brings shame instead of glory.
- Benjamin Merkle

#### VIOLATION OF GENDER DIFFERENCES BRING SHAME

#### 5 Argument from practice

• I Corinthians II:16 (ESV) If anyone is inclined to be contentious, we have no such practice, nor do the churches of God.

## **GENESIS I-2 TEXT**

**Equality and Mutuality** 

#### **EQUALITY - MALE AND FEMALE REFLECT HIM**

Genesis I:27 (ESV) So God created man in his own image,

in the image of God he created him;

male and female he created them.

#### MUTUALITY -MALE LEADERSHIP

#### ADAM CREATED FIRST

• Genesis 2:5-7 (ESV) When no bush of the field was yet in the land and no small plant of the field had yet sprung up—for the Lord God had not caused it to rain on the land, and there was no man to work the ground, 6 and a mist was going up from the land and was watering the whole face of the ground— 7 then the Lord God formed the man of dust from the ground and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life, and the man became a living creature.

#### MUTUALITY -MALE LEADERSHIP

ADAM GIVEN MANDATE TO WORK-EXERCISE DOMINION OVER CREATION

• Genesis 2:15-17 (ESV) The Lord God took the man and put him in the garden of Eden to **work it and keep it**. 16 And the Lord God commanded the man, saying, "You may surely eat of every tree of the garden, 17 but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall surely die."

#### MUTUALITY -MALE LEADERSHIP

#### ADAM GIVEN COMMAND

• Genesis 2:15-17 (ESV) The Lord God took the man and put him in the garden of Eden to work it and keep it. 16 And the Lord God commanded the man, saying, "You may surely eat of every tree of the garden, 17 but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall surely die."

## MUTUALITY —WOMEN CREATED OUT OF MAN'S NEED ...INABILITY TO COMPLETE THE TASK

• Genesis 2:18-20 (ESV) Then the Lord God said, "It is <u>not good</u> that the man should be alone; I will make him a helper fit for him." 19 Now out of the ground the Lord God had formed every beast of the field and every bird of the heavens and brought them to the man to see what he would <u>call them.</u> And whatever the man called every living creature, that was its name. 20 The man gave names to all livestock and to the birds of the heavens and to every beast of the field. But for Adam there was not found <u>a helper fit for him.</u>

• But for Adam there was not found a helper fit for him.

Ezer

Kenegedo-corresponding

#### **EZER**

- no implications regarding the relationship or relative status of the individuals involved
- Applied to God ...x 16 as providing help

Exodus 18:2-4 (ESV) 2 Now Jethro, Moses' father-in-law, had taken Zipporah, Moses' wife, after he had sent her home, 3 along with her two sons. The name of the one was Gershom (for he said, "I have been a sojourner in a foreign land"), 4 and the name of the other, Eliezer (for he said, "The God of my father was my help, and delivered me from the sword of Pharaoh")

- Applied to people helping people
   Isaiah 41:6 (ESV) Everyone helps his neighbor and says to his brother, "Be strong!"
- Applied to people assisting but under the authority of

I Kings 20:16 (ESV) And they went out at noon, while Ben-hadad was drinking himself drunk in the booths, he and the thirty-two kings who helped him...(32 kings less powerful than him helped him)

# ASSISTING BUT UNDER AUTHORITY OR LEADERSHIP

- I Chronicles 12:1 (ESV) Now these are the men who came to David at Ziklag, while he could not move about freely because of Saul the son of Kish. And they were among the mighty men who <a href="https://example.com/helped-him">helped-him</a> in war.
- I Chronicles 12:22-23 (ESV) For from day to day men came to David to help him, until there was a great army, like an army of God. 23 These are the numbers of the divisions of the armed troops who came to David in Hebron to turn the kingdom of Saul over to him, according to the word of the Lord.
- I Kings 20:16 (ESV) And they went out at noon, while Ben-hadad was drinking himself drunk in the booths, he and the thirty-two kings who helped him...32 kings less powerful than him helped him

#### CONTEXTUAL WARRANT FOR EVE ASSISTING

Genesis I:28 (ESV) And God blessed them. And God said to them, "Be <u>fruitful and multiply</u> and fill the earth and subdue it, and <u>have dominion</u> over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the heavens and over every living thing that moves on the earth."

• Gen 3:16 To the woman he said, "I will surely multiply your pain in childbearing; in pain you shall bring forth children.

#### CONTEXTUAL WARRANT FOR EVE ASSISTING

- I Corinthians II:7-9 (ESV) For a man ought not to cover his head, since he is the image and glory of God, but woman is the glory of man. 8 For man was not made from woman, but woman from man. 9 Neither was man created for woman, but woman for man.
- This is Pauline commentary on "helper" to help Adam rule for His glory

#### WOMAN NAMED BY MAN

Genesis 2:23 (ESV) Then the man said, "This at last is bone of my bones and flesh of my flesh; she shall be called Woman, because she was taken out of Man."

Naming suggests authority and leadership at least as God named and created

## This order existed before the Fall

#### THE FALL

Genesis 3:1 (ESV) Now the serpent was more crafty than any other beast of the field that the Lord God had made.

He said to the woman, "Did God actually say, 'You shall not eat of any tree in the garden'?"

The serpent's craftiness evidenced by approach of woman instead of man Subverting male leadership

#### ADAM REBUKED BEFORE EVE

• Genesis 3:9-12 (ESV) But the Lord <u>God called to the man</u> and said to him, "Where are you?" 10 And he said, "I heard the sound of you in the garden, and I was afraid, because I was naked, and I hid myself." I I He said, "Who told you that you were naked? Have you eaten of the tree of which I commanded you not to eat?" 12 The man said, "The woman whom you gave to be with me, she gave me fruit of the tree, and I ate."

#### PAUL BLAMED ADAM NOT EVE

- Romans 5:12 (ESV) Therefore, just as sin came into the world through one man, and death through sin, and so death spread to all men because all sinned—
- Romans 5:14 (ESV) Yet death reigned from Adam to Moses, even over those whose sinning was not like the transgression of Adam, who was a type of the one who was to come.

## I COR 14:26-39

## THE INJUNCTION TO BE SILENT

I Corinthians 14:34-35 As in all the churches of the saints, 34 the women should keep silent in the churches. For they are not permitted to speak, but should be in submission, as the Law also says. 35 If there is anything they desire to learn, let them ask their husbands at home. For it is shameful for a woman to speak in church.

#### **TENSION**

Cannot mean absolute silence no song leading or prophesy or sharing

I Corinthians II:4-5 (ESV) Every man who prays or prophesies with his head covered dishonors his head, 5 but every wife who prays or prophesies with her head uncovered dishonors her head, since it is the same as if her head were shaven.



I Corinthians 14:33-34 (ESV) As in all the churches of the saints, 34 the women should keep silent in the churches. For they are not permitted to speak, but should be in submission, as the Law also says.

# POSSIBLE SOLUTIONS TO THE APPARENT CONTRADICTION

#### SMARLICGREETING

#### PUBLIC MEETING

I Corinthians I I:4-5 (ESV) Every man who prays or prophesies with his head covered dishonors his head, 5 but **every wife who prays or prophesies** with her head uncovered dishonors her head, since it is the same as if her head were shaven.

I Corinthians II:16 (ESV) If anyone is inclined to be contentious, we have no such practice, nor do the churches of God.

Head veil only makes sense in public assembly context

I Cor I Ib Lords supper admonishment is public assembly

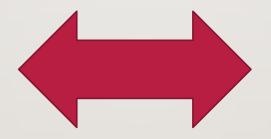
I Corinthians 14:33-34 (ESV) As in all the churches of the saints, 34 the women should keep silent in the churches. For they are not permitted to speak, but should be in submission, as the Law also says.

#### CONCESSION

#### **ABSOLUTE RULE**

Done under extreme reluctance for those who cannot keep quiet

I Corinthians II:4-5 (ESV) Every man who prays or prophesies with his head covered dishonors his head, 5 but every wife who prays or prophesies with her head uncovered dishonors her head, since it is the same as if her head were shaven.



I Corinthians 14:33-34 (ESV) As in all the churches of the saints, 34 the women should keep silent in the churches. For they are not permitted to speak, but should be in submission, as the Law also says.

#### CANNOT BE A CONCESSION

Acts 2:17 And in the last days it shall be, God declares, that I will pour out my Spirit on all flesh, and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy,

#### PARTICULAR PROBLEM WITH THESE WOMEN

- Some women were too noisy and cannot be taken seriously ...why ban all women? No noisy men?
- Women in Corinth –uneducated …but since his rule applies to all churches hence all women uneducated and noisy?
- Heresy present where only women duped ...all of them?

#### CONTEXT IS WEIGHING OF PROPHESY

- I Corinthians 14:29-33 (ESV) Let two or three prophets speak, and let the others weigh what is said. 30 If a revelation is made to another sitting there, let the first be silent. 3 I For you can all prophesy one by one, so that all may learn and all be encouraged, 32 and the spirits of prophets are subject to prophets. 33 For God is not a God of confusion but of peace.
- I Corinthians 14:33-35 (ESV) As in all the churches of the saints, 34 the women should keep silent in the churches. For they are not permitted to speak, but should be in submission, as the Law also says. 35 If there is anything they desire to learn, let them ask their husbands at home. For it is shameful for a woman to speak in church.



## COMMONALITIES IN ALL THREE PASSAGES

	I Cor II	I Cor I4	I Tim 2
Restrictions	Wives can pray and prophesy but use head covering	Wives cannot weigh prophecy of men.	Wives cannot teach or have authority over men
Rationale	Issue-shame and gender distinction	Issue-shame and submission	Issue is submission
Theology	Law invoked Genesis 2 Woman created for man	Law invoked  Genesis 2 creation order	Law invoked Genesis 2 and 3 Adam created first

- Weighing prophesy is exercising authority hence submission would not be preserved
- Overrealised eschatology -women ..egalitarian freedom ..disruptive to this pattern
- They can still learn but at home from their husbands
- Fit pattern of passage about order in practice of gifts

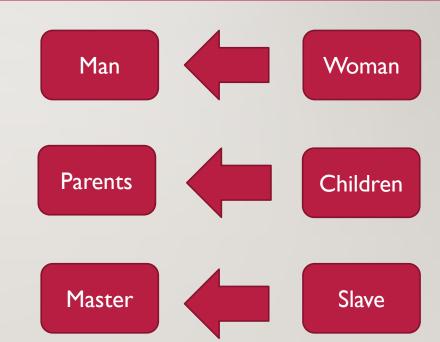
## ROLE OF CULTURE

#### ROLE OF CULTURE

• Eph 5:22 Wives, submit to your own husbands

• Eph 6:1 Children, obey your parents

• Eph 6:5 Bondservants, obey your earthly masters



### **CULTURAL ACCOMMODATION**

- Wife- Husband
- Slave to Master

• Todays culture is equality how does the church exhibit this and preserve male leadership

### WOMEN PROPHETS

#### **PROPHETESS**

#### OT

Miriam (Exod. 15:20), Deborah (Judg. 4:4), Huldah (2 Kgs 22:14; 2 Chr. 34:22), Isaiah's wife (Isa. 8:3).

#### NT

Anna Luke 8:36; Philips Daughters Acts 21:9; Corinthian women 1 Cor. 11:4–5) All believers

OT most common ministry was prophetic ...ministering God's Word Prophets had authority as well although varying degree, and they taught Huldah applied the Word of law to Israel ..2 Kings 22:14-20

NT all have Spirit and prophesy and priests Acts 2

#### DEBORAH

- Judge and prophet
- Shared military leadership with Barak
- Some say it was under exceptional situation where lack of male leaders but still it is a legitimate leadership position notwithstanding the circumstances
- Todays circumstances where missions to unreached is similar need

### WOMEN AS DEACONS

#### **PHOEBE**

Diakanos
Office

Romans 16:1-2 (ESV) I commend to you our sister Phoebe, a **servant** 

of the church at Cenchreae, 2 that you may welcome her in the Lord in a way worthy of the saints, and help her in whatever she may need from you, for she has been a patron of many and of myself as well.

#### DIAKANOS—MINISTER OF THE WORD

- Romans 15:8 (ESV) For I tell you that Christ became a <u>servant</u> to the circumcised to show God's truthfulness, in order to confirm the promises given to the patriarchs,
- Paul
- 2 Corinthians I I:23 (ESV) Are they <u>servants</u> of Christ? I am a better one—I am talking like a madman—with far greater labors, far more imprisonments, with countless beatings, and often near death
- Ephesians 3:7 (ESV) Of this gospel I was made a **minister** according to the gift of God's grace, which was given me by the working of his power
- Colossians 1:23 (ESV) if indeed you continue in the faith, stable and steadfast, not shifting from the hope of the gospel that you heard, which has been proclaimed in all creation under heaven, and of which I, Paul, became a **minister**.

#### DIAKANOS....MINISTRY OF THE WORD

- Colossians 1:24-25 (ESV) Now I rejoice in my sufferings for your sake, and in my flesh I am
  filling up what is lacking in Christ's afflictions for the sake of his body, that is, the church, 25 of
  which I became a <u>minister</u> according to the stewardship from God that was given to me for
  you, to make the word of God fully known,
- Tychicus
- Ephesians 6:21 (ESV) So that you also may know how I am and what I am doing, Tychicus the beloved brother and faithful **minister** in the Lord will tell you everything
- Colossians 4:7 (ESV) Tychicus will tell you all about my activities. He is a beloved brother and faithful **minister** and fellow servant in the Lord.

#### **COUNTER ARGUMENT**

- Women could have been ministering to women
- Context of limited space in house churches hard to avoid men listening to the women too

• I Timothy 3:8-II (ESV) <u>Deacons likewise</u> must be dignified, not double-tongued, not addicted to much wine, not greedy for dishonest gain. 9 They must hold the mystery of the faith with a clear conscience. IO And let them also be tested first; then let them serve as deacons if they prove themselves blameless. II <u>Their wives likewise</u> must be dignified, not slanderers, but sober-minded, faithful in all things.

Γυναῖκας ὡσαύτως

gunaikas oosautoos

Women likewise ....implies women deacons

Deacon's wives in Greek = diakanon autoon

# SIMILAR QUALIFICATIONS SUGGESTS AND OFFICE NOT STATUS AS WIVES OF DEACONS

#### Male Elders

 V 2-3 sober-minded, self-controlled, respectable, hospitable, able to teach, 3 not a drunkard, not violent but gentle, not quarrelsome, not a lover of money.

#### Male Deacons

 V 8 be dignified, not double-tongued, not addicted to much wine, not greedy for dishonest gain.

#### Female Deacons

 V I I be dignified, not slanderers, but soberminded, faithful in all things

#### CONTEXT SUPPORTS IT

Elder qualifications

I Timothy 3:1-13 (ESV) I The saying is trustworthy: If anyone aspires to the office of overseer, he desires a noble task. 2 Therefore an overseer must be above reproach, the husband of one wife, sober-minded, self-controlled, respectable, hospitable, able to teach, 3 not a drunkard, not violent but gentle, not quarrelsome, not a lover of money. 4 He must manage his own

Elder's wives qualifications?

hold well, with all dignity keeping his children submissive, 5 for if someone does not know how to manage his own hold, how will he care for God's church? 6 He must not be a recent convert, or he may become puffed up with conceit li into the condemnation of the devil. 7 Moreover, he must be well thought of by outsiders, so that he may not fall into disgrace, into a snare of the devil.

Qualifications for Deacons

Male Deacon qualifications

8 Deacons likewise must be dignified, not double-tongued, not addicted to much wine, not greedy for dishonest gain. 9 They must hold the mystery of the faith with a clear conscience. 10 And let them also be tested first; then let them serve as deacons if they prove themselves blameless. I I Their wives likewise must be dignified, not slanderers, but sober-minded, faithful in all

Women deacons qualifications?

12 Let deacons each be the husband of one wife, managing their children and their own households well. 13 For those erve well as deacons gain a good standing for themselves and also great confidence in the faith that is in Christ Jesus.

- The feminine equivalent diakonissa is not attested in the Greek language until a later date, so in Paul's day the masculine form would have functioned generically for men or women in this position.
- Early church history records office of deaconess common for several centuries granting leadership roles in to lead and baptize women and in situations inappropriate for men

### EQUALITY -GAL 3:28

#### EGALITARIAN READING

Galatians 3:28 (ESV) There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free, there is no male and female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus.

Paul's Magna Carta of equality

..all other texts subordinate to this FF Bruce

#### CONTEXT

Liberating for women because only men were circumcised, baptism = equality Equal in terms of salvation the verse says nothing about function

Galatians 3:23-29 (ESV) Now before faith came, we were held captive under the law, imprisoned until the coming faith would be revealed. 24 So then, the law was our guardian until Christ came, in order that we might be justified by faith. 25 But now that faith has come, we are no longer under a guardian, 26 for in Christ Jesus you are all **sons of God**, through faith. 27 For as many of you as were **baptized into Christ have put on Christ**. 28 There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free, there is no male and female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus. 29 And if you are Christ's, then you are **Abraham's offspring**, **heirs according to promise**.

There is no distinction in so far as the promise is concerned we are all heirs

#### OTHERWISE THE IMPLICATIONS

- There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free,
- · ...there is no male and female,

### PAUL'S CO-WORKERS

Diakanos = more informal helper

# SAME TERMS TO DESCRIBE MINISTRY OF WOMEN AND MEN

- Romans 16:1-12 (ESV) I commend to you our sister <u>Phoebe</u>, a servant of the church at Cenchreae, 2 that you may welcome her in the Lord in a way worthy of the saints, and help her in whatever she may need from you, for she has been a patron of many and of myself as well.
- 3 Greet Prisca and Aquila, my fellow workers in Christ Jesus, 4 who risked their necks for my life, to whom not only I give thanks but all the churches of the Gentiles give thanks as well. 5 Greet also the church in their house. Greet my beloved Epaenetus, who was the first convert to Christ in Asia. 6 Greet Mary, who has worked hard for you. 7 Greet Andronicus and Junia, my kinsmen and my fellow prisoners. They are well known to the apostles, and they were in Christ before me. 8 Greet Ampliatus, my beloved in the Lord. 9 Greet Urbanus, our fellow worker in Christ, and my beloved Stachys. 10 Greet Apelles, who is approved in Christ. Greet those who belong to the family of Aristobulus. 11 Greet my kinsman Herodion. Greet those in the Lord who belong to the family of Narcissus. 12 Greet those workers in the Lord, Tryphaena and Tryphosa. Greet the beloved Persis, who has worked hard in the Lord.

Implies evangelism and discipling

## MINISTRY OF THE WORD..EVANGELISM AND DISCIPLING

- I Corinthians 15:10-11 (ESV) But by the grace of God I am what I am, and his grace toward me was not in vain. On the contrary, I worked harder than any of them, though it was not I, but the grace of God that is with me. I I Whether then it was I or they, so we preach and so you believed.
- Galatians 4:10-11 (ESV) You observe days and months and seasons and years! 11 I am afraid I may have labored over you in vain.
- Philippians 2:16 (ESV) holding fast to the word of life, so that in the day of Christ I may be proud that I
  did not run in vain or labor in vain
- Colossians I:28-29 (ESV) Him we proclaim, warning everyone and teaching everyone with all wisdom, that we may present everyone mature in Christ. 29 For this I toil, struggling with all his energy that he powerfully works within me.

Philippians 4:2-3 (ESV) I entreat Euodia and I entreat Syntyche to agree in the Lord. 3 Yes,
I ask you also, true companion, help these women, who have <u>labored</u> side by side with me
in the gospel together with Clement and the rest of my fellow workers,

συναθλέω fight together with work together with Ministry of the word

#### **CAVEAT**

- The women were involved in the ministry of the Word as were the men
- No definitive evidence they functioned as the leaders though

## JUNIA

Some suggest this is Junianus shortened male name but never seen in Greek Lit 250 occurrences of it appear in ancient documents and inscriptions as female

 Romans 16:7 (ESV) Greet Andronicus and <u>Junia</u>, my kinsmen and my fellow prisoners. They are <u>well known to the apostles</u>, and they were in Christ before me

well known <u>to</u> the apostles ἐπίσημοι ἐν τοῖς ἀποστόλοις,
Episemoi en tois apostolos
well known <u>amongst</u> the apostles

En ....plural .....translated "amongst"

### JUNIA AS AN APOSTOLOS

- I. Apostolos ----The Twelve with Jesus
- 2. Gift of apostleship I Cor I2 and Eph 4
- 3. Someone sent on a mission...
  - a) Epaphroditus, Phil 2:25 Epaphroditus my brother and fellow worker and fellow soldier, and your messenger and minister to my need,
  - b) Titus

    2 Corinthians 8:23 (ESV) As for Titus, he is my partner and fellow worker for your benefit. And as for our brothers, they are messengers of the churches, the glory of Christ
  - c) James Galatians 1:19 (ESV) But I saw none of the other apostles except James the Lord's brother.

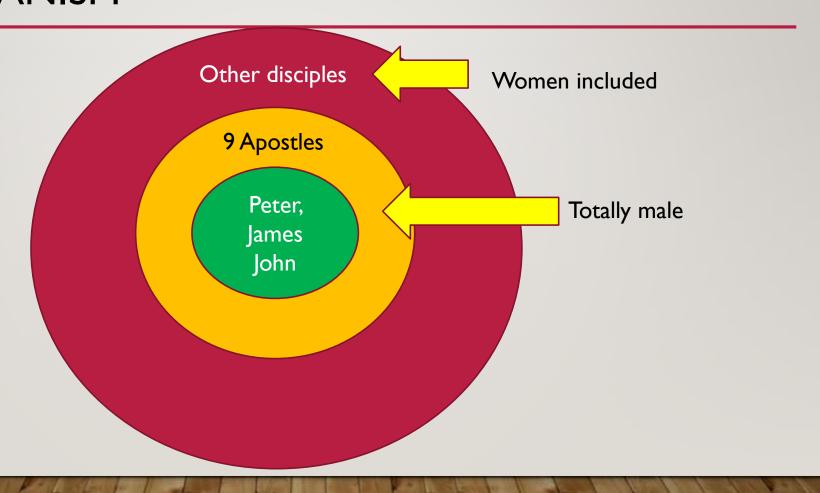
Missionaries –authoritative role of teaching doctrine to men
This is not an office of local ongoing church administration and instruction

## JESUS ATTITUDE TOWARDS WOMEN

### JESUS AND WOMEN

- Women in geneology
- Women healed..Simon mother in law, women with menstrual bleed, Jairus daughter
- Prostittue who washed his feet Lk 7:36-50 (scandalous)
- His entourage included many women Luke 8:1-3 (scandalous)
- Mary at his feet learning Lk 10 (scandalous) posture of learning Torah which was forbidden for women
- John 4-Samaritan woman, resurrection witnesees
- Divorce teaching equal treatment of men and women

# JESUS NEVER EMBRACED FULL FLEDGE EGALITARIANISM



## PRICILLA AND AQUILLA

- Mentioned 6 times in NT (Acts 18:2, 18, 26; Rom. 16:3; 1 Cor. 16:19; 2 Tim 4:19)
- Of this 4 times Pricilla name first (Acts 18:18, 26; Rom. 16:3; 2 Tim. 4:19),

- Acts 18:26-27 (ESV) He began to speak boldly in the synagogue, but when Priscilla and Aquila heard him, they took him aside and explained to him the way of God more accurately.
- Woman teaching a male leader

### SPIRITUAL GIFTS LIST

# NON GENDER SPECIFIC NO OFFICE RELATED

- I. Utterance of wisdom,
- 2. Utterance of knowledge
- 3. Faith
- 4. Gifts of healing by the one Spirit,
- 5. Miracles,
- 6. Prophecy,
- 7. Distinguish between spirits,
- 8. Tongues, to another the interpretation of tongues.

- I. Apostles,
- 2. Prophets,
- 3. Teachers,
- 4. Miracles,
- 5. Gifts of healing,
- 6. Helping,
- 7. Administrating,
- 8. Tongues.

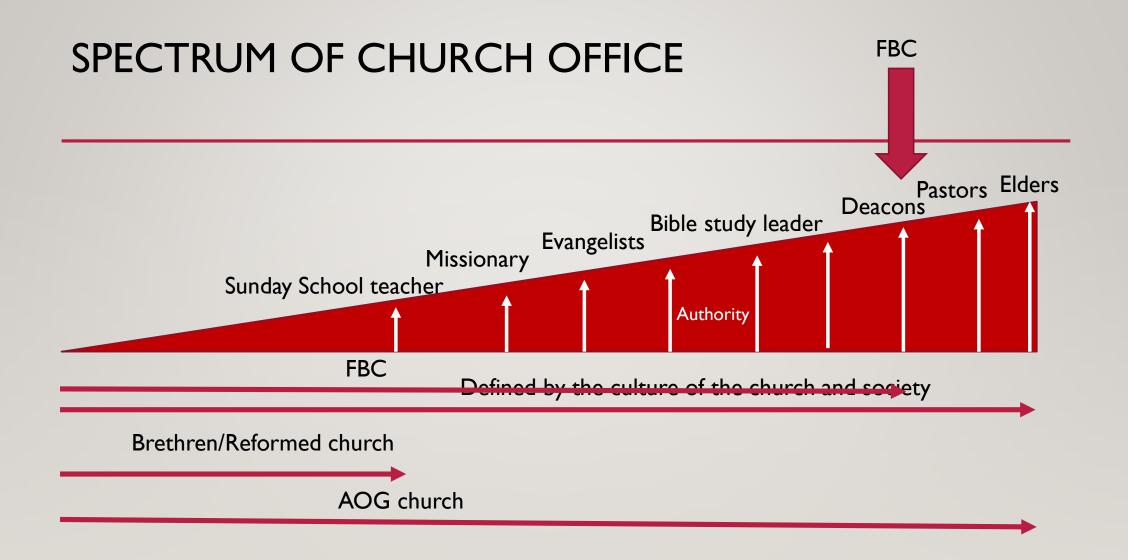
### **APPLICATIONS**

- Headship Outside the husband, and church elders, how does male headship apply to a woman? Today who had headship over a single woman, widow? Can a woman have authority over a man?
- Headship Outside the context of the church ...we live in an egalitarian society the question of headship does not apply to society in general as NT only gave instructions for churches, so a woman can be prime minister and have authority over a man

- In the work situation, the hierarchy in the workplace determines the authority structure. What about in the church? Should it always be a man leading a ministry, a committee? In a sinful world, there are many capable, gifted and godly women in church. Should they always defer to a man who is less mature and less capable? For me I think of headship as in family situation where my husband is the head of the family. It is less clear for me with regards to the eldership and pastors.
- What are the restrictions on the governance and teaching roles in FBC?
- How does one determine the restrictions? What is the extent of the restriction on teaching? To be specific, sole leadership of mixed gender LG? Joint leadership of mixed gender LG? Alpha? Beta?
- Preaching Sunday service? Seminar or workshop? Message at Karis? Youth service?

#### **CHURCH**







#### CHURCH

• Is there a requirement for a woman to wear a symbol of submission to the headship of the church? Veil? Long hair? Wedding ring? Arnold in his sermon on I Cor II implied that a woman could preach as long as she wore the veil in church.

• What does silence of women in church (I Cor I4) mean? Is the silence specific to Corinthian church. Or general and hence applicable today? I think you said in your sermon that women should not weigh prophesy. I personally find that hard to swallow. Fair enough that weighing of prophesy for a church as whole is left to the elders. But trouble is that prophecies can come to individuals in personal capacity. Therefore if a younger Christian should approach a woman for advice about a prophesy, should the woman keep quiet? Send the person to the elder? That sort of begs the question of the value of educating women in biblical scholarship. I admit I am pushing the limits. Are Christian women implicitly restricted to only topics of women and children

• Why is I Cor II instructions on veil and long hair is given the cultural lens treatment but I Tim 2 is not? There were issues in the Ephesian church – false doctrines? Should I Tim2:12 be seen as an instruction specific to the Ephesian church for that specific issue? If not, why is !Tim2 deemed as applicable to the church today?