

HER STORY

JESUS, WOMEN, AND THE CHURCH

Week 1: Seeing The Big Picture (Bruxy Cavey)

Week 2: Jesus & the New Covenant (Karmyn Bokma)

Week 3: Marriages that Preach (Leanne Friesen)

Week 4: Learning from the Prohibitive Passages

Week 5: Special Guest – (Jo Saxton)

Week 6: Q & Eh? (Bruxy Cavey)

PLUS: After Party Podcasts with Dr. Marion Taylor, Dr. Cindy Westfall, & Danielle Strickland

APPETIZER: Third Way Thinking + Review

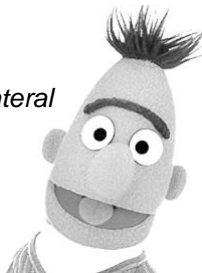
1. Men and women are equally made in **God's image** and called to be **co-rulers** equally over creation.
2. First mention of male authority over women is connected to **the curse of the fall**. Patriarchy is the worldly backdrop of the Bible, the mess God is working with, not God's ideal for humankind.
3. Jesus brings the **New Covenant**, a new way of being in relationship with God that rebukes the curse and recaptures the best of our relationships in the Garden of Eden. Jesus also teaches against the worldly approach to valuing hierarchy and power structures.
4. The **sign** (baptism) and spiritual **gifts** (including leadership) of the New Covenant are egalitarian, without question or qualification. (e.g., **Romans 12:1-7**)
5. **In Christ**, we are not to be separated according to race, class, or gender.

PROHIBITIVE PASSAGES?

- **1 Corinthians 11:2-16** – Headship, hair, & head covering
- **1 Corinthians 14:34-35** – Women should be silent in church
- **Ephesians 5:21-33** – Wives submit to your husbands
- **1 Timothy 2:11-15** – I do not permit a woman to teach
- **1 Timothy 3:1-13** – Overseers are only male?

The Wesleyan Quadrilateral

1. **Bible**
2. **Experience**
3. **Reason**
4. **Tradition**



DINE IN: The Transcultural Transferable Principle

1 Timothy 2:11-15

PAUL'S REASON FOR WRITING...

- The primary motivation for this letter is to address the best way to respond to false teaching and deception spreading through Timothy's church. Something is going wrong in Ephesus. Women were especially deceived and were passing on the deception. (**1 Timothy 1:3-4; 4:1-3, 7; 5:6, 13-16; 6:3-5; 2 Timothy 3:6-7**)

THE CONTEXT – EPHESUS, EDUCATION, & ARTEMIS...

- Women were largely uneducated (aside from those of the upper class, but even then far less than men). This left them open to the deception of false teachers invading the church.
- While Paul is addressing a specific time, place, and circumstance that require different instructions for each gender, these teachings could easily apply to both genders in other circumstances (e.g., women should pray and not be angry and argumentative, and men should be modest and learn in submission). The instructions of this passage are situationally specific.

THE TEXT...

- In **verse 11**, notice that the subject changes from plural (women) to singular ("A woman"), signaling this may be addressing a private relationship, such as a marriage. The Greek words for "man" and "woman" can be translated "husband" and "wife" depending on the context.
- Women should learn! Just like men. Probably at home (see **1 Corinthians 14:35**), making spiritual discussion an important part of the marriage relationship.
- Women should not be permitted to grab at or abuse authority (*authentēo*: a more aggressive word than Paul's usual word for "authority", *exousia*) OVER men. (Just as men should never do this to women.)
- Deception (**v 14**) is the problem attached to creation order (**v 13**). Therefore, the question is WHY was Eve (not all women) deceived? Eve's deception is an illustration, not of gender weakness, but of any distraction and deception that might happen to any Christians, male and female (e.g., **2 Corinthians 11:3**).

THE BOTTOM LINE...

- Eve was more easily deceived, not because of her gender but because, as the second created, she had a mediated relationship with God's command. God gave the important "don't eat the fruit of that one tree" command once he made one human, Adam. Because God loves to do everything through partnership, Adam passed on God's instruction to Eve through Adam, evidenced in her imprecise memory of God's command. And a secondary, mediated exposure to God's Word can leave someone more easily deceived.
- What's the lesson for today? No matter how charismatic or confident someone is, no one should become an authoritative teacher and/or leader in the Church without their own direct experience of **learning and loving the Bible**.

TAKE OUT: Learn!

This passage contains rich principles for the whole Church:

- We are never to aggressively grab for power, instead we follow Jesus by laying our power down and serving others with our spiritual gifts.
- In the New Covenant, we are all given to the privilege and opportunity to learn!



Home Church Questions

HANGOUT [Warming Up to the Topic – in one Large Group]

1. What reactions did you have to this week's message?
2. Has anyone in your group listened to the "After Party" podcasts posted so far? If so, talk about what you learned!

HEAR [Listening to God through Scripture – in Discussion Groups]

3. Read **1 Timothy 2**, the whole chapter.
 - a. Paul begins by urging Christians to pray and emphasizes this urgency by using multiple words for our communication and communion with God. Talk about how you experience and practice (or don't) each of those elements in your own prayer life.
 - b. How often do you think to pray for our political leaders?
 - c. If God wants all people to be saved, why do some never respond to the message of Jesus? Is this God's choice our ours or ... ?
 - d. Paul connects salvation with knowing truth. What truth is that?
 - e. Paul speaks of Jesus in present tense as still being a "man" (also see **Acts 17:31** and **Colossians 2:9**). It seems that when the "word became flesh" (**John 1:14**) that God himself took on a permanent change. How does this fit with the idea of God being unchangeable?
4. ROLE PLAY! Break into pairs, with one person taking the egalitarian position and the other a restrictive position about women in church leadership and try to convince the other person using Scripture.
5. A MORE IMPORTANT ROLE PLAY! Take turns communicating the gospel to one another in terms conveyed in **verses 5-6**. Talk about "God", "Jesus", ransom, "all people". Give each other feedback on what made sense and what needed more clarity.

HUDDLE [Making It Personal and Praying Together – in Huddles]

6. Learning and loving the Bible better is a theme of this passage. What steps are you taking in our life to learn and love the Bible better?
7. Use your huddle questions and pray for each other.