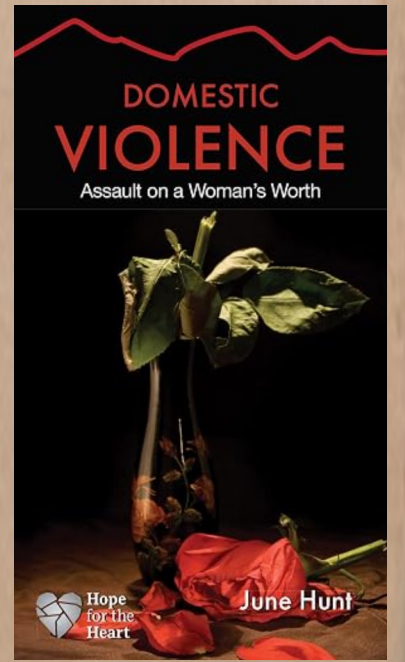


Philippians 4:13

I can do all things through

~~a verse taken out of context!~~

him who strengthens me.



<advance and read verse>

Have you ever heard people use scripture incorrectly to support their position?

Have you ever done it yourself?

I have. I have misinterpreted scripture, not realizing that I was missing context. It was not intentional, mind you.

Most of us do not *aim* to misuse scripture.

This is why Paul tells Timothy over and over to teach what is true.

Each week of this series I have explicitly stated that no Christian, regardless of theology, would endorse the abuse of women. The reality is:

Sinful *unbelievers* have abused women.

Sinful *believers* have abused women.

And some sinful men have used *scripture* to justify their sin.

I stand with you in condemning all of those behaviors.

That is not God's good design.

And that is why we are about "excavating souls from the ruins of the fall".

Several women have shared parts of their stories with me. They all have a

common element, a man sinned against me.

And that is the source of angst when we talk about God's design for men and women in the household of God.

Men have sinned against me, so how can I trust God and men ever again?

The answer, "I can do all things through him who strengthens me."

<advance to book>

I often have books to recommend.

Domestic Violence: Assault on a Woman's Worth (Hope for the Heart)

By June Hunt

<https://www.amazon.com/dp/1596366826>

June Hunt is a trusted Bible counselor with a ministry spanning decades. If you know someone who is affected by domestic violence of any kind, I commend this booklet to you. It is full of practical, tested guidance and scripture. There is even a section on twisted scriptures – scriptures twisted by both the abuser and the victim. Satan justifies *abuse* with twisted scripture, and Satan shames *leaving* abuse with twisted scripture.

The Bible says in Proverbs

Proverbs 27:12a The prudent sees danger and hides himself,

Proverbs 22:24 Make no friendship with a man given to anger, nor go with a wrathful man,

David fled from Saul who tried to kill him. Jesus fled from the religious leaders who were seeking his life. And certainly women and children should not stay in an abusive situation, and the Bible supports them in fleeing.

If you or someone you know is struggling in this area, I encourage you to get them a copy of this helpful booklet. The elders are here to support you, as well as our two women's advocates: Edna Marshall and Pam Ianni.

Back to Genesis

1 Timothy 2:13-15

Gender Roles in the Church

Part 4



My name is Ashley McGlone, and I am one of the elders here at New Song. Welcome. We are glad you are here. I love you. We are finishing our series on 1 Timothy 2 today. I am going to explain how women make Satan tremble. You have a bulletin insert to follow along and make notes today. Same disclaimer as the last few weeks. The upper case text is a glitch on my computer, so don't read any extra emphasis into that.

This year we changed our church vision statement to:
Excavating souls from the ruins of the fall.

Genesis is where we read about the fall. And thousands of years later we are still excavating souls from those ruins. Understanding Genesis is key to how we got here and to how we will thrive in the household of God.

Women have been buried in the ruins of the fall.

Truth has been buried in the ruins of the fall.

Trust has been buried in the ruins of the fall.

Today we are going to uncover some of that truth which will help excavate the souls of women who have been buried in the ruins.

The context for understanding what Paul is saying here is found in Genesis 1-3.

1 Timothy 2:8–15 (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, [10] but with what is proper for women who profess godliness—with good works.

We will start by reading the eight verses of the passage for context.

1 Timothy 2:8–15 (ESV)

[11] Let a woman learn quietly with all submissiveness. [12] I do not permit a woman to teach or to exercise authority over a man; rather, she is to remain quiet.

1 Timothy 2:8–15 (ESV)

[13] For Adam was formed first, then Eve; [14] 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.

These last three verses are our focus today.

The story so far...

- Part 1 - There Are Two Genders, Not One
- Part 2 – Godliness Inside and Out
- Part 3 – Permission, Not Ability

In part 1 we asked the question, “Why did God create two genders if we are all one in Christ?” The answer, because it was his good design for us to have both shared and unique roles for each gender.

In part 2 we looked at temptations unique to each gender. For men, anger. For women, externals. God wants both genders to focus on godliness inside and out.

In part 3 we said that while men and women are made in God’s *image* and equally capable in many areas, God’s *design* is for men to be the head of the home and church.

Along the way we learned a lot of Roman culture around the church of Ephesus here.

And that brings us to today’s topic...

It's not about the culture.

Back to Genesis



As part of this series we have learned a lot about Roman culture in Paul's day.

- Patronage
- Wealth and influence
- Pater familias

So which one of these cultural considerations did Paul cite as the basis for his instructions to the household of God?

<pause>

None of them.

Our first key point today is this:

For his basis, Paul quoted points from the foundational story for all of humanity found in Genesis, not local culture, rather, timeless truth. Genesis transcends time and place.

In order for us to understand what Paul is saying here, we must return to the beginning.

Paul's reasons had nothing to do with the local culture.

Quick side note: As I was studying this week I had an epiphany. I cannot reach

the bottom. Let me explain. Every time I dive into Genesis, I come away with something new I've not seen before. It's like a well that never runs dry. Some of you have been here for a while, and you have heard me quote Genesis frequently. While studying again through this series I have come away with multiple new insights, and I want to share some of those with you today.

Three Points in 1 Timothy 2:13–15

1. For Adam was formed first, then Eve;
2. and Adam was not deceived, but the woman was deceived and became a transgressor.
3. Yet she will be saved through childbearing—if they continue in faith and love and holiness, with self-control.

<read the points>

I don't know about you. The one that puzzled me the *most* was #3. Saved through childbearing?

<pause>

What about women who cannot have children?

Are the men exempt from faith and love and holiness and self-control?

Is this the domineering patriarchy of Paul on full display?

<pause>

Or does Paul see something we don't know?

<pause>

What I discovered next in Genesis suddenly explained it all.

What this does not say:

- Women are forever dumb and gullible
- All men are to rule over all women

Aren't these the stereotypes?

- Women are forever dumb and gullible
- All men are to rule over all women

This is the popular twisting of scripture.

Both of these are *entirely* wrong.

What this does say:

- Men & women have *shared* roles in God's design
- Men & women have *unique* roles in God's design
- Women particularly have a role that makes Satan tremble

These are true. Each gender has both shared and unique roles in God's design.

And women have a role that makes Satan tremble.

Genesis 3

Back to Genesis



Turn in your Bible to Genesis 3. Let's read afresh the scene where Satan attacked God's good design:

Genesis 3

[1] 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'?" [2] And the woman said to the serpent, "We may eat of the fruit of the trees in the garden, [3] but God said, 'You shall not eat of the fruit of the tree that is in the midst of the garden, neither shall you touch it, **lest you die.**'" [4] But the serpent said to the woman, "**You will not surely die.** [5] For God knows that when you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil." [6] 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. [7] Then the eyes of both were opened, and they knew that they were naked. And they sewed fig leaves together and made themselves

loincloths.

[8] And they heard the sound of the LORD God walking in the garden in the cool of the day, and the man and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the LORD God among the trees of the garden. [9] But the LORD God called to the man 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." [11] 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." [13] Then the LORD God said to the woman, "What is this that you have done?" The woman said, "The serpent deceived me, and I ate."

[14] The LORD God said to the serpent,

"Because you have done this,
cursed are you above all livestock
and above all beasts of the field;
on your belly you shall go,
and dust you shall eat
all the days of your life.

[15] I will put enmity between you and the woman,
and between your offspring and her offspring;
he shall bruise your head,
and you shall bruise his heel."

[16] To the woman he said,

"I will surely multiply your pain in childbearing;
in pain you shall bring forth children.
Your desire shall be for your husband,
and he shall rule over you."

[17] And to Adam he said,

"Because you have listened to the voice of your wife
and have eaten of the tree
of which I commanded you,
'You shall not eat of it,'
cursed is the ground because of you;

in pain you shall eat of it all the days of your life;
[18] thorns and thistles it shall bring forth for you;
and you shall eat the plants of the field.

[19] By the sweat of your face
you shall eat bread,

till you return to the ground,
for out of it you were taken;
for you are dust,
and to dust you shall return.”

[20] The man called his wife’s name Eve, because she was the mother of all living. [21] And the LORD God made for Adam and for his wife garments of skins and clothed them.

[22] Then the LORD God said, “Behold, the man has become like one of us in knowing good and evil. Now, lest he reach out his hand and take also of the tree of life and eat, and live forever—” [23] therefore the LORD God sent him out from the garden of Eden to work the ground from which he was taken. [24] He drove out the man, and at the east of the garden of Eden he placed the cherubim and a flaming sword that turned every way to guard the way to the tree of life. (ESV)

Genesis 3:4-6

[4] But the serpent said to the woman, “You will not surely die. [5] For God knows that when you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil.”

Let's point out a couple key verses...

Genesis 3:14–15

The LORD God said to the serpent,

Because you have done this,

cursed are you above all livestock...

I will put enmity between you and the woman,

and between your offspring/seed and her offspring/seed:

he shall bruise/crush your head,

and you shall bruise/crush his heel.

God did not curse Adam or Eve. He cursed the serpent and the ground.

He put the serpent on notice with the curse:

between your offspring and her offspring

This will be an on-going battle of hatred for generations to come between the serpent and the woman

Depending on your translation, you may see offspring or seed. Two years ago we learned that, every living thing God created multiplies, plants, animals, people. So seed is the same as offspring here.

In the last two lines we see bruise or crush. This word is only used a couple times in the OT. Here, and then in Job and Psalms.

Job 9:17

For he crushes me with a tempest

and multiplies my wounds without cause;

Psa 139:11 – crushing darkness

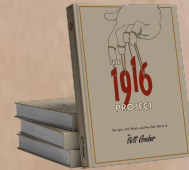
If I say, “Surely the darkness shall cover me,

and the light about me be night,”

So we see that the woman will have a child that will crush Satan.

In Romans 16:20a Paul said,
The God of peace will soon crush Satan under your feet.

The Greatest Threat to Satan: *The woman and the child*



Serpent attacks the woman first	Pharaoh slaughters Hebrew children	Child sacrifice to Molech in Israel	Herod slaughters Hebrew children	Dragon & Serpent poised to eat the child
Genesis	Exodus	Jeremiah	Matthew	Revelation
Serpent cursed Mutual hatred of the woman Her child will crush you	Prophetic of the coming Messiah	God says twice that even He never imagined this	Rachael weeping The child of Genesis 3:15 has arrived! CONQUERS DEATH!	Woman and child rescued by God

We see this battle played out from Genesis to Revelation. Satan continues attacking women and children.

<talk through each reveal in the slide>

I wish I had time to recap the book *The 1916 Project*. Please go to our website and list to the talk I gave at the pastor's summit two weeks ago on this. There are no words to explain the horrific attack of Satan on women and children in the last 250 years of our culture. It is detailed quite thoroughly in that recording, and you can download the notes there as well.

To bookend Genesis 3, let's read Revelation 12:1–6:

[1] And a great sign appeared in heaven: a woman clothed with the sun, with the moon under her feet, and on her head a crown of twelve stars. [2] She was pregnant and was crying out in birth pains and the agony of giving birth. [3] And another sign appeared in heaven: behold, a great red dragon, with seven heads and ten horns, and on his heads seven diadems. [4] His tail swept down a third of the stars of heaven and cast them to the earth. And the dragon stood before the woman who was about to give birth, so that when she bore her child he might

devour it. [5] She gave birth to a male child, one who is to rule all the nations with a rod of iron, but her child was caught up to God and to his throne, [6] and the woman fled into the wilderness, where she has a place prepared by God, in which she is to be nourished for 1,260 days. (ESV)

Continuing in Revelation 12:13–17:

[13] And when the dragon saw that he had been thrown down to the earth, he pursued the woman who had given birth to the male child. [14] But the woman was given the two wings of the great eagle so that she might fly from the serpent into the wilderness, to the place where she is to be nourished for a time, and times, and half a time. [15] The serpent poured water like a river out of his mouth after the woman, to sweep her away with a flood. [16] But the earth came to the help of the woman, and the earth opened its mouth and swallowed the river that the dragon had poured from his mouth. [17] Then the dragon became furious with the woman and went off to make war on the rest of her offspring, on those who keep the commandments of God and hold to the testimony of Jesus. And he stood on the sand of the sea. (ESV)

Here we see a cosmic attack on a pregnant woman from the dragon and serpent, waging war against her and her offspring. This is Genesis 3:15 cover to cover. And notice who steps in, God. God steps in to rescue the woman.

Let's read that list line of verse 17 one more time.

“Then the dragon became furious with the woman and went off to make war on the rest of her offspring, on those who keep the commandments of God and hold to the testimony of Jesus.”

Do you want to know why gender roles in the church is such a battle? Because SATAN hates women and their children. And his lie from the garden is alive and well: “God’s design for you is not good.” This is the lie repeated since the garden and lives in our churches today.

The truth makes our culture furious. The truth is this:

- God’s design for both men and women is good.
- Motherhood is good.
- Children are good.

God created men and women with unique natures, roles, and responsibilities. Beyond our common call to be fruitful and multiply, and to care for creation, women have a special role that men cannot perform.

Genesis 3:20

The man called his wife’s name Eve, because she was the mother of all living.

Do you want to know why gender roles in the church is such a battle? Because every LIVING thing God created multiplies. SATAN hates women and their children.

John 10:10 The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I came that they may have life and have it abundantly.

Do you know what are some of the longest passages of a woman speaking in scripture? The songs of women! Mary, Deborah, Miriam.

Elizabeth and Mary, the mother of the Messiah, rejoiced in motherhood with a song.

Luke 1 – REJOICING IN MOTHERHOOD

41 And when Elizabeth heard the greeting of Mary, the baby leaped in her womb. And Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit, 42 and she exclaimed with a loud cry, “Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb! ... 45 And blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfillment of what was spoken to her from the Lord.”

46 And Mary said,

“My soul magnifies the Lord,

47 and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior,

48 for he has looked on the humble estate of his servant.

For behold, from now on all generations will call me blessed;

49 for he who is mighty has done great things for me,
and holy is his name.

50 And his mercy is for those who fear him
from generation to generation.

Key points from Genesis

- The first one to lie to a woman that she was “less than” was Satan
- God cursed the serpent, mutual hatred with woman, her child will crush him
- Satan has attacked women and children ever since (Genesis to Revelation)

The only one who told the woman that she was less than was the serpent.

Two things were labeled as not good in the Genesis account:

God said it's not good for the man to be alone.

And Satan said it's not good what God has given the woman.

The reaction of feminism is against the *sin*. God's *design* was good. *Sin* is bad.

The answer to the problem in society is not *ditching* God's design, but *returning* to it. Expose the sin and lies that oppose the design.

The answer is not to tear down the design, rather the answer is to seek good gospel repentance and forgiveness for the sin.

Paul references Genesis

- 1 Timothy 2:13-15 Adam and Eve
- 1 Corinthians 11:7-12 man and woman
- Romans 5:12-19 one man's transgression, death
- 1 Corinthians 15:21-22,45-49 by a man came death

Four places in the Paul's letters he references Genesis. Two of them talk about man and woman. Two of them only talk about the sin of the man that brought death.

The word "transgress" literally means "to cross the line". God made a law. And we crossed the line. That is transgression.

Romans 5 is very strong. 6x mentions death. 10x referencing "that one man's transgression/sin/disobedience".

Even though Eve was the first to transgress, Adam was second, right there with her. And Adam, as the head of the wife, was held accountable. Paul emphasizes this repeatedly.

The fall did not change God's design. It illustrated innate weaknesses – the woman feeling less than, and the man passive in his role. Satan exploits these weaknesses in each gender, and the man is held accountable as the head.

== reference ==

1 Timothy 2:13-15

Adam was formed first, then Eve

Adam was not deceived, but the woman was deceived and became a transgressor.

Yet she will be saved through childbearing—if they continue in faith and love and holiness, with self-control.

1 Corinthians 11:7-12

[Man] is the image and glory of God

Woman is the glory of man.

For man was not made from woman, but woman from man.

Neither was man created for woman, but woman for man.

In the Lord woman is not independent of man nor man of woman;

for as woman was made from man, so man is now born of woman.

And all things are from God.

Romans 5:12-19

Death 6x, that one man's transgression 10x!

No mention of the woman or Eve, all hanging on Adam the man

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—.

For as by the one man's disobedience the many were made sinners, so by the one man's obedience the many will be made righteous.

1 Corinthians 15:21-22,45-49

By a man came death

1 Corinthians 11:7–12

[7] 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. [11] Nevertheless, in the Lord woman is not independent of man nor man of woman; [12] for as woman was made from man, so man is now born of woman. And all things are from God. (ESV)

Romans 5:12–19

[12] 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—[13] for sin indeed was in the world before the law was given, but sin is not counted where there is no law. [14] 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.

[15] But the free gift is not like the trespass. For if many died through one man's

trespass, much more have the grace of God and the free gift by the grace of that one man Jesus Christ abounded for many. [16] And the free gift is not like the result of that one man's sin. For the judgment following one trespass brought condemnation, but the free gift following many trespasses brought justification. [17] For if, because of one man's trespass, death reigned through that one man, much more will those who receive the abundance of grace and the free gift of righteousness reign in life through the one man Jesus Christ. [18] Therefore, as one trespass led to condemnation for all men, so one act of righteousness leads to justification and life for all men. [19] For as by the one man's disobedience the many were made sinners, so by the one man's obedience the many will be made righteous. (ESV)

Three Points in 1 Timothy 2:13–15

1. For Adam was formed first, then Eve;
2. and Adam was not deceived, but the woman was deceived and became a transgressor.
3. Yet she will be saved through childbearing—if they continue in faith and love and holiness, with self-control.

So with all the context of Genesis 1-3, let's come back to our passage today.

<read slide>

Based on what we have read today, we see that:

Adam was *formed* first.

Eve was *targeted* first.

Adam was *formed* first.

Eve was *targeted* first.

I am no good at sports, including bowling. But I know that in bowling, if you aim for the lead pins, you'll get the rest of them. I believe the reason Satan targeted Eve was because she was the lead pin. In 1 Corinthians 11, Paul says that she is the glory of the glory, the pinnacle of everything beautiful in all of God's Creation. Satan knew that if he aimed for the glorious pinnacle, we would hit the rest as well. His goal was to hit all three: God, man, woman. He was targeting God, the author of Life. He was targeting Adam, the first man and head. And he hit all three by upsetting God's order in targeting the woman, the mother of all living.

I have looked at this passage for four months straight. And in the last two weeks, suddenly, I discovered what I was missing. A proper understand of Genesis 1-3 gives the context that we need. And James puts a fine point on it:

James 1:13–16

[13] Let no one say when he is tempted, “I am being tempted by God,” for God cannot be tempted with evil, and he himself tempts no one.

[14] But each person is tempted when he is lured and enticed by his own desire.

[15] Then desire when it has conceived gives birth to sin, and sin when it is fully grown brings forth death.

[16] Do not be deceived, my beloved brothers.

Eve was tempted by her desires. She played into the deception with three desires and took three actions:

Genesis 3

[6] So when the woman saw

THREE DESIRES – tasty, pretty, wise (eyes opened)
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,

THREE ACTIONS – took, ate, gave
she took of its fruit and
ate, and
she also gave some to her husband who was with her,

CAUSED HER HUSBAND TO SIN AS WELL
and he ate.

Recall what James just said, “and sin when it is fully grown brings forth death.”

God said, ‘You shall not eat of the fruit of the tree that is in the midst of the garden, ... **lest you die.**’

But the serpent said to the woman, “**You will not surely die.** For God knows that when you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil.”

Satan’s aim was not to make them wise. Satan’s aim was to make them DEAD.

Listen carefully here:

In his mind Satan was offering them death, but with his words he was offering them knowledge.

In his mind Satan was offering them death, but with his words he was offering them knowledge.

It's the razor blade inside the apple.

Satan's aim was not to make them wise. Satan's aim was to make them DEAD.

The next time you face temptation, stop to examine what is hidden *inside* the lure.

Both Eve and Adam sinned in this moment. The word “transgressor” is interesting here, because everywhere else in Romans 5 and 1 Corinthians 15 Adam is labeled as the transgressor and held accountable for sin and death entering the world. That only further proves that the man's headship existed both before and after the fall. The man was held accountable for the sin of the couple.

This is not about Eve's sin making her lower than Adam. That is false. Both sinned, and Adam is clearly held accountable. Eve is not somehow less than Adam due to sin. She is not “less than” at all. They are both blessed... in God's image.. and sinners.

Connecting the Genesis dots

1 Timothy 2:11-12

- Let a woman **learn** quietly with all **submissiveness**.
- I do not permit a woman to **teach** or to exercise **authority** over a man;
- rather, she is to remain quiet.

1 Timothy 2:13-14

- For Adam was formed first, then Eve;
- and Adam was not deceived, but the woman was deceived and became a transgressor.

So if both sinned, what is this really about? What is Paul deriving from Genesis? Paul is specifically addressing women in the household of God: learning, teaching, and having authority.

First look at the yellow here:

Adam was formed first. – His headship was established before the fall, and it did not change after the fall. God's design remains.

Her position of submission to her husband existed prior to her sin. And the husband as the head was held accountable for her sin immediately.

I also find fascinating what Paul *did not* quote from Genesis 3. When God addressed Eve, he said (3:16b), "Your desire shall be for your husband, and he shall rule over you."

Paul did not see male headship as a penalty for sin. Male headship was already true both before and after the fall. If anything, his being held accountable only confirms male headship in the home.

As God's design before the fall, Adam was formed first, women are not to have authority over men in the church.

This is Paul's explanation.

Now look at the blue here:

Paul is validating the pursuit of knowledge according to God's design. Yes, the woman is to learn. However, in God's design she is not to teach the man in church.

The woman was deceived. – The fruit was tasty, pretty, and wise. She saw knowledge in the fruit and pursued it apart from God's will. Then she taught her husband to sin by handing the fruit to him.

In the book Women in the Church, Rosaria Butterfield says this:

We learn from the fall that male headship preceded Satan's attack. All conversations about gender roles in the Bible come down to this: is male headship a creation ordinance or a post-fall sin? Is headship a precursor to or a consequence of the fall? The details of Adam's and Eve's creation unfold to show that God gave Adam authority over all creation, including his wife, and that God's design for marriage would continue this headship paradigm for God's glory and for the good of creation. Satan intentionally attacked outside God's order. Eve's first sin was that she interpreted her situation apart from God's design. God charged Adam with this sin because of his failed headship. God cares about order and boundaries.

Paul's point is that this relates to *receiving and giving, authoritative knowledge, according to God's design.*

But what about _____?

Elisabeth Elliot	<i>All complementarian</i>
Nancy Pearcey	<i>All recognize male headship</i>
Rosaria Butterfield	<i>All reserve doctrinal authority for church elders</i>
Alisa Childers	<i>Speak outside Sunday morning</i>
Allie Beth Stuckey	<i>Focus on discipling women</i>

What about my favorite woman Bible teacher?

Perhaps these women have been a blessing to you. My wife and I often watch their content on YouTube. They all speak about the Bible on some level, so how does that work with what Paul is describing?

These women publicly share their testimonies, scholarship, apologetics, and cultural commentary in a variety of settings. They all respect Paul's boundary of authoritative teaching of scripture in the church. None of them claim authority over your local pastor, nor do they claim a title of pastor.

This actually brings up a rabbit trail worth mentioning publicly...

Elders in their Biblical job description, among other responsibilities, are charged with preaching, teaching, and feeding the flock. That is what we do on Sunday mornings. We are also accountable to God for what is taught in our groups throughout the week.

As elders we get asked about Christian books for Bible studies. Regardless of

whether the author is a man or woman; and regardless of whether the group is men, women, or mixed; the elders want to review the books you use. Why? Maybe that sounds nosey. Yes it is 100% nosey, because of the charge Paul gave Timothy:

1 Timothy 1:5-7

[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.

For example, a few years ago the book *Emotionally Healthy Spirituality* was really popular. The elders even met the author, Pete Scazzero, at a pastor's conference. We came back, ordered the big book and video kit, and then went through it ourselves first. It didn't take long before we identified questionable content mixed in and determined that not all members of our flock would be mature enough to sift out the chaff. So we chose not to use that material in our church.

This is the authoritative role of elders to ensure the flock is receiving sound teaching. Elders are to guard and guide the flock and make sure they have a healthy diet. It is for this reason that we ask to review books for all Bible study groups in the church.

Let's get back on track and wrap up the last verse here...

Childbearing?

1 Timothy 2:15

Yet she will be saved
through **childbearing**—if
they continue in faith and
love and holiness, with
self-control.

1 Timothy 4:1-4

1 Now the Spirit expressly says that in later times some will depart from the faith ... 3 who **forbid marriage** and require abstinence from **foods that God created** to be received with thanksgiving by those who believe and know the **truth**. 4 For **everything created by God is good**, and **nothing is to be rejected** if it is received with thanksgiving,

<Read v15, wait to advance>

Saved through childbearing?

As we discussed earlier, Satan opposes life and brings death.

This verse is not saying that the only way for individual women to go to heaven is by having babies.

It is actually calling back to Genesis 3:15, the prophecy of the seed of the woman crushing the head of the serpent.

In order for the serpent to be crushed, the woman must bear children. By doing so, women everywhere are saving the world.

That applies to both Mary, the mother of the Messiah, and mothers in the household of God who bear children to grow up and become serpent crushers according to Revelation 12:17.

Women everywhere? Really? Yes, hear again what Revelation says:

Then the dragon became furious with the woman and went off to make war on the rest of her offspring, on those who keep the commandments of God and hold to the testimony of Jesus.

Serpent crushers!

the rest of her offspring, on those who keep the commandments of God and hold to the testimony of Jesus.

<advance and read next passage>

In Paul's day people were teaching to forbid good parts of God's created design like foods and marriage.

Remember what Satan says about God's design, "not good".

Paul reminds us clearly, "everything created by God is good" and we are to believe the truth and be thankful.

So "saved through childbearing" applies to the prophetic Genesis 3:15 battle of the human race against the serpent and dragon.

Remember Genesis 3:20 "The man called his wife's name Eve, because she was the mother of all living." That role can only be filled by women.

What I am about to say next is very counter cultural.

Remember, God's curse put the serpent on notice, "her child will crush your head".

How can women make Satan tremble?

Have as many children as God will give you and turn them into serpent crushers,

according to Revelation 12:17 offspring to keep the commandments of God and hold to the testimony of Jesus.

Godly women and children make Satan tremble.

Then the dragon became furious with the woman and went off to make war on the rest of her offspring,

Remember the book *The 1916 Project*. It recounts the last 250 years of fury and war against the offspring God ordained. Culture has shamed women for staying home and raising children. Culture says women need to throw off the slavery of motherhood and make their mark in the workplace. And that is exactly who Paul was talking about, those who forbid God's good design of motherhood.

How can women make Satan tremble?

Have as many children as God will give you and turn them into serpent crushers.

The truth makes our culture furious. The truth is this:

- God's design for both men and women is good.
- Motherhood is good.
- Children are good.

What about single, divorced, widows, or even postmenopause women? They cannot be fruitful and multiply can they? That's not fair?

Oh yes, they can. What? Yes. Remember what Jesus told Nicodemus, that we must be born of water and spirit. Nicodemus didn't get it, "How can I go back into my mother's womb?" he asked. Jesus explained being born again. Every woman can be spiritually fruitful, impacting the lives of tens or hundreds for thousands of people. Operation Christmas Child is a perfect example of this. Remember, as a single man, Jesus accomplished everything the Father ordained for him to do.

Let's talk



After all this you might be thinking, “But a man hurt me! That’s not good.” You are exactly right. We all decry sin in any form, especially sin against women. Domestic violence is real, and it is a violation of God’s good design. Nothing is wrong with God’s design. Everything is wrong with our sin. Nothing provokes the wrath of a father more than someone violating his wife or daughter. Scripture is full of warnings of God’s judgment on those who commit violence against his precious children. In this fallen world there is sin, and we are sinned against. That is the strength of the gospel. We must rely on Jesus both for the healing of our wounds and for the healing of our hearts to forgive...

And that brings us full circle back to Philippians 4:13 I can do all things through him who strengthens me.

And that’s what we call “excavating souls from the ruins of the fall”.

Today we learned that Paul’s teaching on gender roles in the church is based entirely in the timeless truth of Genesis.

God's word challenges us, challenges our culture, challenges assumptions that we have held for years.

God's word confronts our own sin, and confronts those who have sinned against us.

I pray that God's word stirs you this week to find healing from the lies that Satan has used to deceive you.

Remember, *Satan* was the one who twisted God's word and said that women are "less than".

Women are not "less than" men. Women are made in God's image and blessed. They have a unique role only they can fulfill in the prophetic triumph over Satan.

As with any sermon series, we only have so much time. You may have questions about what we discussed today.

The elders are always open to questions and discussing what we present on Sunday mornings.

Please feel free to reach out. This is a community church where we enjoy Bible discussions,

...and we celebrate God's design for men and women.

The Fluorescent Vest and the Flowery Apron

1 Timothy 5:1-16
Gender Roles in the Church
Part 5



As I've said throughout this series, the topic of women's roles in the church only feels heavy because it is buried under the ruins of the fall. Satan's message that God's design is "not good" is championed in our culture. The good news is that God's design is good, and Satan is a liar.

The *truth* is: women are intelligent, competent, and assured. They are blessed, and equipped, by God, for many good works.

Next week we are going to look at some of the unique gifts God has given women to bless the household of God as we talk about...

The Fluorescent Vest and the Flowery Apron
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Part 5

Let's close in prayer.

Benediction

Remember that we have prayer down front after service.

Let us stand for the benediction:

Let us go out and make Satan tremble this week: Revelation 12:17

Then the dragon became furious with the woman and went off to make war on the rest of her offspring, on those who keep the commandments of God and hold to the testimony of Jesus.

This week let us keep the commandments of God and hold to the testimony of Jesus. You are dismissed.