
Sermon Notes

February 28, 2021

First Congregational Church of Pomfret

Different By Design 1 Timothy 2:8-15

Order in the Church

- ❖ As Paul continues to counsel Timothy about God's plan for order, organization and sound teaching in the church, Paul shifts the focus from praying to teaching
- ❖ God appoints specific people to specific roles in His church
 - men and women share equality before God in terms of value, dignity and salvation
 - there are gender specific roles in the church just as surely as there are gender specific roles in the home
- ❖ Though it flies in the face of much contemporary thinking, God has a perfect plan for order in His church

Purity in Prayer

- ❖ The presence of false teaching has disturbed the peace within the fellowship of the Ephesian church
 - anger and quarreling limit the life of the church
 - it seems the men of the church are being critical and competitive (argue first, listen later)
- ❖ Bitterness and anger do not make a good platform for prayer

- when we come to God in prayer, attitude matters
- when we come to God in prayer, come in peace
- ❖ Motives matter too!
 - don't dress in a way that calls attention to yourself
 - clothe yourself with right attitudes and right motives
 - true beauty springs out of what one does, not what one wears
- ❖ God cares very little about our outward appearance... the Lord looks at the heart... and that applies to both men AND women

Quiet and Submissive

- ❖ A positive command!
 - in the Roman world, the idea of educating women was seen as something that was completely out of bounds
 - ***let a woman learn*** is a statement of liberation, not a put-down or prohibition
- ❖ The Bible's best example of learning quietly with all submissiveness
 - a posture and an attitude that is commended by Jesus!
 - Jesus' words are a rebuke to anyone who thinks Bible study or theology is meant for men only
- ❖ Learning with quietness and submissiveness is an appropriate learning style for everyone
 - good learning requires good listening

- learning requires submitting to the knowledge and authority of the teacher
- ❖ Although the concept of submission is widely misunderstood, it is a beautiful, Biblical value
 - Biblical submission is not based on any sense of inequality, inferiority, lack of value, or loss of dignity
 - God the Son submits to God the Father
 - a chain of command that extends from heaven to earth (Son to Father, church to Son, church members to church leaders)
- ❖ Submission is never meant as an excuse to tolerate or justify abuse of any kind
 - true leadership is servant leadership
 - Paul's call for *submissiveness* in v. 11 is a call for women to submit to the teaching leaders of the church NOT a call for all women to submit to all men

The Ministry of Teaching

- ❖ Whereas the Bible commends women to be learners, it prohibits women from teaching in the public worship of the church (v. 12)
 - there are times, places and settings in which it is appropriate for Christian men to learn from Christian women (Acts 2:17, 18:26, Colossians 3:16)
 - this prohibition applies to when the church gathers as a whole to submit itself to the preaching of God's Word
- ❖ Why is this the case?

- though Paul may not give us all the answers, he gives us one answer in v. 13
- this prohibition is rooted in creation order and has nothing to do with superiority
- throughout Scripture, "firstness" brings along with it both responsibility and authority
- ❖ V. 14
 - Satan blinded Eve to the true nature of sin
 - Adam sinned with his eyes wide open!
 - Adam was responsible for Eve's spiritual well-being and for the spiritual welfare of the whole human race
 - the Bible does not teach that men should preach because they will do a better job
 - men are charged with serving God's people by providing sacrificial, loving protection from anything that seeks their harm and works against God's perfect plan and will
- ❖ Hope for humanity ultimately comes through one specific woman who gives birth to one specific child!

Personal Application

1. In what ways has this teaching challenged any of your personal convictions about the subjects raised in this portion of Scripture?
2. What is the value of practicing submission as the Bible portrays it?