

To teach... begs a couple of questions.

What do we do with 1 Corinthians 11 where women were prophesying?

If women are to remain silent in the assembly and are not to teach a man what do we do with Colossians 3:16 and Ephesians 5:19?

Colossians 3:16 Let the message of Christ dwell among you richly as you teach and admonish one another with all wisdom through psalms, hymns, and songs from the Spirit, singing to God with gratitude in your hearts.

Ephesians 5:19 speaking to one another with psalms, hymns, and songs from the Spirit. Sing and make music from your heart to the Lord...

There is no passage in the N.T. that permits women to teach as long as they do it without have authority over men, or are doing it under the authority of the elders.

Authentein - authority over

The word is a violent word with very limited use in ancient Greek manuscripts. It is used only once in the N.T.

It conveys a sovereign power over or full power and control over another.

Exousia - authority. This is the common word used 94 times in N.T.

The implication for Paul using a different word for authority is demonstrating there must have been something going horribly wrong that needed to drastically change.

It is important to remember that the context of what Paul wrote Timothy is instruction for the church in Ephesus.

Paul is teaching 4 things in this passage:

1. Teach the women to dress modestly. The items he lists for them to avoid were commonly worn in Ephesus by women who were known to be sexually promiscuous. He wants the gospel message to be respected.
2. A women should LEARN. Women were consistently less educated in theology and scripture as men. Women in Ephesus, because of Artemis worship, often took the lead in public worship assemblies. Paul is expressing concern that they will continue the practice within the Body without knowing what they are saying.
 1. Their learning should be done in quietness and submission which flies in the face of the typical woman of Ephesus and how they conducted themselves within the religious realm of Artemis.
 2. This is the only place in the N.T. the word *authentein* meaning “have authority over” is used. It is a word that speaks of violent actions or attitudes. “I’m taking charge period!”
 3. Don’t forget Paul’s co-worker taught men!

Paul is teaching 4 things in this passage:

3. Silencing seems to come out of Adam and Eve's relationship and Eve being deceived. Why he uses this example here is uncertain, but it does speak to the attitude of the Artemis followers that taught that men should be subordinate to women as well as the gnostic beliefs.
4. Women will be saved through childbearing. No one is certain what this verse means. Many scholars think it is referencing the cult of Artemis that taught marriage was bad and often terminated pregnancies or was used to combat gnostic beliefs.

When you place the passage against the Ephesus culture, it seems Paul is teaching Timothy how to teach the Body to live godly lives that reflect a stark contrast to the culture they were living within.

1 Timothy 2:11-12 - Digging Deeper

If you notice in verse 13-15 Paul is giving the reason behind why women should act a certain way. This grounding goes beyond an assembly and deals with daily life. Due to this, many view this passage as laying down God-given principles for men's and women's roles. That being the case, is the restricting of women teaching and having authority over man only limited to the assembly, or is it restricting over all areas of life?

Our roots within the Restoration Movement.

If creation order implies levels of authority how do we reconcile that with Kingdom ethics?

Jesus taught that the humble are exalted, the lowly are the greatest, the last are the first.

1 Corinthians 11:1-16

A few things we must acknowledge about the text.

1. Paul is responding to actions taking place within the church.
2. Customs are discussed and there is no consensus over what custom.
3. Women were praying and prophesying in public.
4. The only time the word authority is discussed is verse 10.
5. We cannot neglect to connect v.11 with the preceding discussion.
6. This passage is greatly debated regarding correct translation and meaning of numerous words.