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# THE BEREANS

ACTS 17:11

**1 Timothy 3:8-15**  
**Lesson #7**  
**Gender Roles**  
**06/4/2023**

1

*1 Timothy 2*

“8 Therefore I want the **men** in every place to pray, lifting up holy hands, without wrath and dissension. 9 Likewise, I want **women** to adorn themselves with proper clothing, modestly and discreetly, not with braided hair and gold or pearls or costly garments; 10 but rather by means of **good works**, as befits women making a claim to **godliness**. 11 Let a woman quietly receive instruction with entire **submissiveness**. 12 But I do **not allow a woman to teach or exercise authority over a man**, but to remain quiet. 13 For it was Adam who was first created, and then Eve. 14 And it was not Adam who was deceived, but the woman being quite deceived, fell into transgression. 15 But women shall be preserved through the bearing of children if they continue in **faith and love and sanctity with self-restraint**.”

2

## *Interpretive Paraphrase*

*1 Timothy 2*


“8 Men are not to be a distraction to worship with their angry debating over doctrine 9 and women are not to distract with their flashy appearance; 10 Inner godliness is what we need to hear and see. 11,12 Women are to defer to men in leadership/teaching. 13 The creation account in Gen.1-3 is a picture of human nature. Adam was created first and Eve was created as his helpmate. 14 Eve took the lead in the Fall of humanity 15 and she also plays an indispensable role in raising children if she is a godly example and spiritually disciplined.”

3

### **Distinct gender roles are taught in Scripture.**

*Gen.2:18-25, 3:1 6, 1 Cor.11:3-16, 14:34-39, Gal.3:26-28, Col.3:11-19, Eph.5:22-33, 1 Pet.3:1-7*

**Until the modern era, this teaching was not very confusing or controversial.**



**Why is this so contested today?**

4

### Major periods in Western Civilization

**Enlightenment** 1700-1800  
**Age of Reason** 1776  
 American Revolution 1776  
 Romanticism 1800-1850  
 Modernism 1900-2000  
 Post-Modernism 2000-

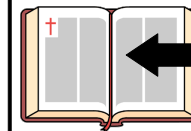
- **Empirical Reason** - over tradition, religion, and superstition.
- **Philosophical Materialism** - Reality is nothing but space, time, energy, and matter.
- **Individual Freedom** - Question all external authority. Roles & value are achieved not ascribed.

5


### *We read the Bible through cultural lenses.*

**Traditional cultures**

Ancient culture



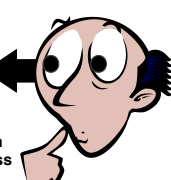
Early American culture



**Modern Western culture**

Relativism  
Democracy  
Narcissism  
Materialism

Autonomy  
Pragmatism  
Individualism  
Permissiveness



*It's easier to critique past culture's lenses than ours.*

6

"The **Enlightenment** included a range of ideas centered on the value of **human happiness**, the pursuit of **knowledge** obtained by means of **reason** and **the evidence of the senses**, and ideals such as natural law, liberty, progress, toleration, and separation of church and state." *Whckopedia*

**Did the Enlightenment have Biblical roots?**

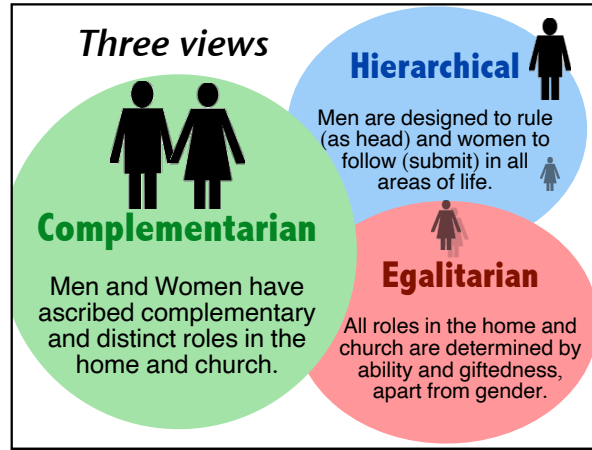
*Genesis 3*

"6 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 desirable to make one wise**, she took some of its fruit and ate; and she also gave some to her husband with her, and he ate.

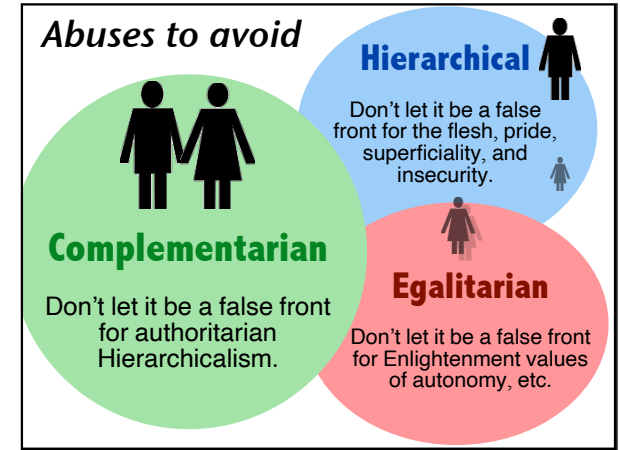


7 Then **the eyes of both of them were opened, and they knew that they were naked; and they sewed fig leaves together and made themselves loin coverings.**"

7



8



9

The path to wise decisions concerning **gender roles?**

1. Take your baptism seriously.
2. Affirm a common spiritual base.
3. Respect gender distinctives.
4. Apply gender roles wisely.

10

The path to wise decisions concerning **gender roles?**

1. Take your baptism seriously.

The first step is to **get out of the Spirit's way.**

A disciple of Jesus **sets aside personal rights and seeks to serve rather than be served.**

11

The path to wise application starts by **facing in the right direction.**

12

## Take your baptism seriously.



The Enlightenment made it all about "Me."



My baptism made it all about Him.

### The Garden of Eden

Roles are achieved.

### The Garden of Gethsemane

Roles are ascribed.

13

## Philippians 2

"5 **Have this attitude in yourselves which was also in Christ Jesus**, 6 who, although He existed in the form of God, **did not regard equality with God a thing to be grasped**, 7 **but emptied Himself**, taking the form of a bond-servant, and being made in the likeness of men. 8 And being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross."

### 1 Peter 3

"6 . . . just as **Sarah obeyed Abraham**, calling him lord, and you have become her children if you do what is right **without being frightened by any fear**. 7 You husbands . . . live with your wives in an understanding way, as with someone **weaker**."

14

## The path to wise decisions concerning gender roles?

### 2. Affirm a common spiritual base.

The ground is level at the foot of the Cross.

### Galatians 3:28

"There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free man, there is **neither male nor female**; for you are all one in Christ Jesus."



15

## The context of this passage is "spiritual family" not "ministry roles."

### Galatians 3

"28 There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free man, there is neither male nor female; for you are all one in Christ Jesus. 29 **And if you belong to Christ, then you are Abraham's descendants, heirs according to promise.**"

A parallel passage teaches gender roles -

*Col. 3:11* "a renewal in which there is no distinction between Jew and Greek . . .", *vs.18* "Wives be subject to your husbands."

16

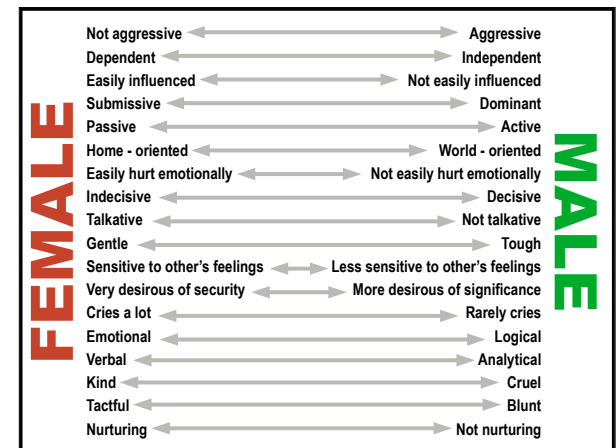
## The path to wise decisions concerning gender roles?

### 3. Respect gender distinctives

Gender differences should be **understood and valued, not ignored or feared.**



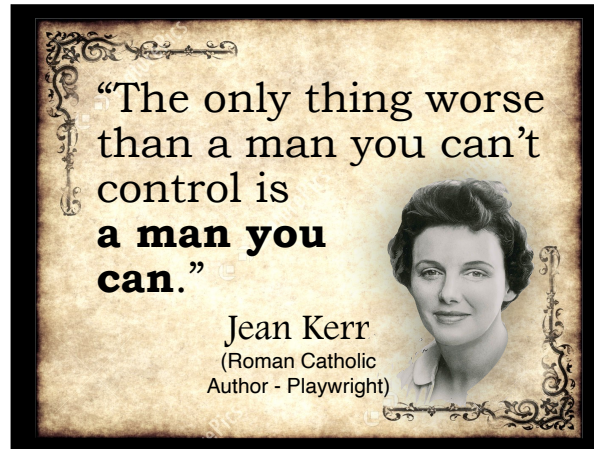
17



18



19




20

The path to wise decisions concerning **gender roles?**

4. Apply gender roles wisely.

We need men to be men and women to be women **not vice versa.**



Men are to lead in making sure roles are **not abused.**

21

If man is the “head” of the woman, he bears primary responsibility before God.

*1 Corinthians 11:3*

“But I want you to understand that Christ is the head of every man, and **the man is the head of a woman**, and God is the head of Christ.”

*1 Corinthians 15*

“22 For as **in Adam all die**, so also in Christ all shall be made alive. . . 45 So also it is written, “The **first man, Adam** (not Eve), *became a living soul.*” The **last Adam** became a life-giving spirit.”

22

Husbands, as “heads” are expected to model self-sacrificing love, while women, as “helpmates” are to model submissive responsiveness.

*Ephesians 5*

“22 **Wives, be subject** to your own husbands, as to the Lord. 23 For the husband is the head of the wife, as Christ also is the head of the church, He Himself being the Savior of the body. 24 But as the church is subject to Christ, so also the wives ought to be to their husbands in everything. 25 **Husbands, love** your wives, just as Christ also loved the church and gave Himself up for her;”

23

Men, in positions of strength are to give honor to women (being more vulnerable).


*1 Corinthians 12*

“22 On the contrary, it is much truer that the members of the body which seem to be weaker are necessary; 23 and those members of the body, which we deem less honorable, on these we **bestow more abundant honor**, and our unseemly members come to have **more abundant seemliness**, 24 whereas our seemly members have no need of it. But God has so composed the body, **giving more abundant honor to that member which lacked**, 25 that there should be no division in the body, but that the members should have the same care for one another. 26 And **if one member suffers**, all the members suffer with it; **if one member is honored**, all the members rejoice with it.”


24



**Headship**    **Submission**  
 are inner postures based on principles  
 rather than rigid outward rules.



**A sacrificial initiator**




**A supportive responder**

**But this is not just.  
 But it is like the CROSS**

25

“Denominations that have historically ordained women to the highest positions of leadership have experienced an exodus of men, not only from leadership but also from the church.”

**Lyle Shaller**  
 (church consultant)



24

26



GLOBAL CATHOLIC NETWORK



HOST  
 CULLEEN CARROLL CAMPBELL

As a powerful & gifted woman, how do you respond to those who say that women are not free to be ordained in the Catholic Church?

**“Power in the Kingdom of God is love. I don’t need a position or a title to exercise that power.”**

**Agnes Mary Donovan PhD**  
 Superior General, Sisters of Life



27

**The test of a healthy gender culture**

**How do the women feel?**

- Do they feel secure and free to use their gifts in ministry?**
- Do they feel that their ideas are understood and contributions are valued?**

**How do the men behave?**

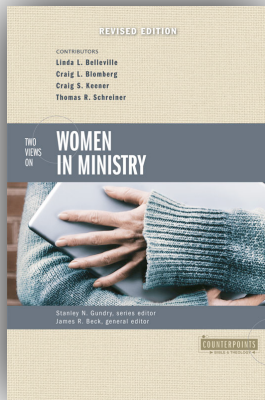

- Are they modeling self sacrifice?**
- Are they shepherding the sheep?**

28

28

**Two views on WOMEN IN MINISTRY**

Zondervan

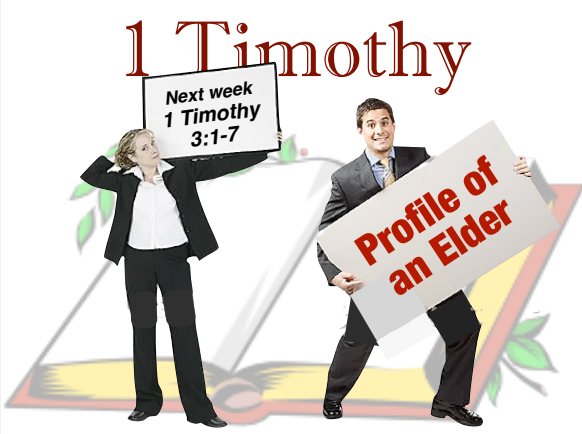



29

**1 Timothy**

Next week  
**1 Timothy 3:1-7**

**Profile of an Elder**



30