

## REDEEMING WOMEN

I was sitting at lunch with two very well-known pastors, both who had much larger churches than mine. The subject of the economy and working women came up. One of the pastors said that about 75% of his ladies worked full-time. The other pastor said that about 90% of his ladies worked full-time. I stayed out of the conversation, but thought, “Maybe 20% of our ladies work full-time.” Of course, we are broke all the time, but I work at encouraging our moms to be moms. Yes, the economy forces some into the working world. And yes, many husbands are struggling to find solid jobs that provide for their family without a second income, but there is a higher calling on the ladies of our churches than full-time, secular jobs. I do not say it is a sin, nor wrong, but I do say it is always best if a lady can be mom. Here is a quick devotion regarding this subject.

America is obviously hurting in thought and action. We have become so incredibly wrong in our thinking, which is, of course, due to a lack of Bible, God, and church.

One difficult question is, “How can these problems be FIXED?” This should be a giant study, but for the moment I will give a few, brief thoughts to help remind all of us of things that must happen to save a nation.

God created man and woman in the garden, they were perfect, but when they sinned, they lost their position and privilege. How then does that relate to the text regarding the woman?

1 Timothy 2:15 “Notwithstanding she shall be saved in childbearing, if they continue in faith and charity and holiness with sobriety.”

SAVED, not saved like salvation, but to salvage her original position, her purpose, and her influence on home and society. She can save or redeem her position and purpose.

Although she did so sincerely yet in much error, when the woman took the spiritual lead, took the fruit, and gave it to her husband, she lost some things.

Genesis 3:16 “...and thy desire shall be to thy husband, and he shall rule over thee.”

So we see God initiated something after the fall: submission to the husband. Her sincere desire to learn, grow, and make spiritual choices (but doing things her way and not as God had commanded) brought her to the point that God says in our text:

1 Timothy 2:11 “Let the woman learn in silence with all subjection.”

vs. 12 “But I suffer not a woman to teach, nor to usurp authority over the man, but to be in silence.”

vs. 13 “For Adam was first formed, then Eve.”

vs. 14 “And Adam was not deceived, but the woman being deceived was in the transgression.”

When God tells man to honor the wife as a weaker vessel (1 Peter 3:7), He is not referring to weakness in brains or skills, but rather weakness in being tempted — theological weakness, weakness in trusting the leading of God over her own feelings. So the above verses show that God insists the woman stay in subjection, that she learn in silence at church, and not have authority over the man because:

vs. 14 “And Adam was not deceived, but the woman being deceived was in the transgression.” (See also 1 Corinthians 11:3 & 9)

So we come back to the text and to the question as to what would save a nation.

1 Timothy 2:15 “Notwithstanding she shall be saved in childbearing, if they continue in faith and charity and holiness with sobriety.”

Women may be able to run businesses, to serve in politics, or to teach in colleges, but that which will redeem their position of influence, and SAVE or reinstate their powerful influence on society is child bearing. But notice the word *IF* in the verse above.

“...if they continue in faith and charity and holiness with sobriety...”

The powerful place a woman could have, the dynamic effect a woman should have on society is found in rearing children who will continue in the faith, charity, and holiness. Her power is not in being a governor or CEO, but in being a mother of faithful children. If her children do not follow this path, she continues to be ineffective and fall short of what God designed her to be and do.

A woman lost much in the Garden of Eden, and her one hope of regaining the place of influence was through bringing up children who love God, who serve God, who love their fellow man and who place high esteem on the church and the ministry.

It is no wonder the devil has driven ladies to fight for their rights, to demand equal pay, to demand the right to hold positions as CEO, etc. Of course, Satan wants to get ladies to focus on their own position and influence. Satan ruins homes, ruins nations, and ruins churches using his failed path. Add to that, Satan’s success in telling ladies they do not need any children or perhaps one, maybe two at the most, because “these kids get in the way of your dreams and purposes in society,” and it is no surprise we are in the condition we are. All of that is rubbish!!

Add to that foolish idea that a woman does not need a husband, that she can work, rear children, and run life without men, and the result is an “epic fail,” as the saying goes. Whole societies will fail, churches will not have pastors, mission fields will go without

the Gospel, and leaders in our own nation will be without divine wisdom — all because ladies did not redeem their position of greatness as mother. What a tragic loss.

1 Timothy 2:15 “Notwithstanding she shall be saved in childbearing, if they continue in faith and charity and holiness with sobriety.”

Yes, ladies are capable of many tasks, but there is no higher calling than that of being a godly mother and rearing children for God.

Thinking about these principles, I wonder if perhaps this is the key to our success with teenagers. After over 32 years, 95% of the teens who went through our school stay in church. Somewhere around 60% are in the ministry or training for the ministry. Who knows, but perhaps moms being mom is the reason things are so very different in our youth department? It may have nothing to do with the pastor or youth workers.

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