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Oaks Early Risers Bible Class

**The Oaks
Baptist Church**
Grand Prairie, Texas



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God's Gift of Leadership A Study in 1 Timothy

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Food for Thought

MOTHERS

Of all the earthly things God gives,
There's one above all others:
It is the precious, priceless gift
Of loving Christian mothers.
The virtues of mothers are visited
on their children.

*Her children rise up and call her
blessed; her husband also, and he
praises her.*

Proverbs 31:28 (NKJV)

(From "Our Daily Bread" - 05/13/07)

LEADERSHIP IN THE FAMILY

1 TIMOTHY 2:9-15

When we come to the word **"likewise"** in verse 9, we must recognize that Paul is indicating a connection between verses 9-15 and the first part of chapter 2. I believe that the connection is the principle Paul has just set down in verses 1-7, namely, that **all the saints should submit to those in authority over them, and seek to lead a peaceful and quiet life in all godliness and dignity.** In verses 9-15, Paul gives several specific applications of this general instruction as it relates to women. To begin with, Paul applies the principle of a peaceful and quiet life to a woman's appearance in public. A woman's appearance and apparel is an indication of her submission to her husband, or the lack of it. In 1 Corinthians 11:1-16, Paul teaches that the wife's submission to her husband is evident in her appearance, specifically by the covering of her head in public worship. The wife is to strive to give glory and preeminence to her husband, her spiritual head, rather than to attract attention to herself. Since the woman's hair is her glory, Paul instructs wives to cover their heads, so as not to distract from their husbands' glory. **Quietness, then, is not just a matter of speech, or the lack of it. It is a disposition that is reflected, in part, in one's demeanor and dress.** Even today we speak of "loud" colors. Some women are not "quiet" in the way that they dress. If there ever was a place where quietness in dress is appropriate, it is in the meeting of the church. As we would expect, Peter fully agrees with Paul's teaching (1 Peter 3:1-6). "Quietness" in the church meeting also requires restraint from certain kinds of verbal participation in the public meeting of the church. Let me be very clear at this point. I do not believe that Paul here calls for *absolute silence* on the part of women in the church meeting. Women can certainly participate verbally in worship *as a part of the congregation.* **What Paul forbids is speech that usurps the authority of the men and of male leadership in the church.** Thus, women are specifically instructed to be learners, and not teachers, in the church meeting. They are not to exercise authority over men in the church. In this regard, women are to be quiet (verse 12). Paul's reasons for requiring this quietness have nothing to do with male chauvinism. **They have everything to do with submission to the divine order God has created, and which He expects to be practiced in the meeting of the church.** Thus, in verses 13 and 14 Paul's explanation goes all the way back to the relationship of Adam and Eve in the Garden of Eden, at the time of the fall of man. Adam was created first, and then Eve (from Adam's rib). In this manner Adam was designated as the head of his wife (see here 1 Corinthians 11:8-10). Furthermore, it was at the fall of mankind that the order was reversed. Eve led, and Adam followed. More than this, Eve was deceived, while Adam was not. He willfully acted in disobedience. The conduct of men and women in the church is thereby linked first to God's order in creation and second to man's disregard of this divine order in the events of the fall. For some, these restrictions for women may seem to be a burden too great to bear. As I understand Paul's words in verse 15, he finds a partial cure in the same biblical context as the curse:

But she will be delivered through childbearing, if she continues in faith and love and holiness with self-control (1 Timothy 2:15). When God pronounced the curse on the serpent, He also pronounced the promised cure through the seed of the woman (Genesis 3:14-15). Eve, and all women after her, would experience pain in childbirth (Genesis 3:16), but in that pain there was hope. It was the **"seed of the woman"** that would crush the head of the serpent. It was the **"seed"** of Eve who would be the promised Messiah, and while Satan would **"bruise His heel,"** the Messiah would crush Satan's head. Eve's deliverance from the curse came through the bearing of children. From her offspring, the promised **"seed"** would come. And come He did (see Galatians 3:16). Childbearing is not the only significant contribution a woman can make, as Paul's later words will clearly indicate. But childbearing is a most significant contribution. A woman may not take a prominent leadership role in the church, but **she most certainly plays a vital role in the home, as she bears and raises up godly children.** One must wonder why Paul found it necessary to address the issues of dress and the public participation of women in a book that seeks to correct false teaching and to curb false teachers. Is it possible that among the false teachers some were women? We do know that women were particularly being targeted by the false teachers (2 Timothy 3:5-7).

(Excerpts from "Creation to the Cross" By Bob Deffinbaugh)

NOTES AND CROSS-REFERENCES

Col 3:18-21

18 Wives, be subject to your husbands, as is fitting in the Lord.
19 Husbands, love your wives and do not be embittered against them.
20 Children, be obedient to your parents in all things, for this is well-pleasing to the Lord.
21 Fathers, do not exasperate your children, so that they will not lose heart.

1 Cor 11:3-16

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
4 Every man who has something on his head while praying or prophesying disgraces his head.
5 But every woman who has her head uncovered while praying or prophesying disgraces her head, for she is one and the same as the woman whose head is shaved.
6 For if a woman does not cover her head, let her also have her hair cut off; but if it is disgraceful for a woman to have her hair cut off or her head shaved, let her cover her head.
7 For a man ought not to have his head covered, since he is the image and glory of God; but the woman is the glory of man.
8 For man does not originate from woman, but woman from man;
9 for indeed man was not created for the woman's sake, but woman for the man's sake.
10 Therefore the woman ought to have a symbol of authority on her head, because of the angels.
11 However, in the Lord, neither is woman independent of man, nor is man independent of woman.
12 For as the woman originates from the man, so also the man has his birth through the woman; and all things originate from God.
13 Judge for yourselves: is it proper for a woman to pray to God with her head uncovered?
14 Does not even nature itself teach you that if a man has long hair, it is a dishonor to him,
15 but if a woman has long hair, it is a glory to her? For her hair is given to her for a covering.
16 But if one is inclined to be contentious, we have no other practice, nor have the churches of God.

Titus 2:3-8

3 Older women likewise are to be reverent in their behavior, not malicious gossips nor enslaved to much wine, teaching what is good,
4 so that they may encourage the young women to love their husbands, to love their children,
5 to be sensible, pure, workers at home, kind, being subject to their own husbands, so that the word of God will not be dishonored.
6 Likewise urge the young men to be sensible;
7 in all things show yourself to be an example of good deeds, with purity in doctrine, dignified,
8 sound in speech which is beyond reproach, so that the opponent will be put to shame, having nothing bad to say about us.

1 Peter 3:1-8

3 In the same way, you wives, be submissive to your own husbands so that even if any of them are disobedient to the word, they may be won without a word by the behavior of their wives,
2 as they observe your chaste and respectful behavior.
3 Your adornment must not be merely external — braiding the hair, and wearing gold jewelry, or putting on dresses;
4 but let it be the hidden person of the heart, with the imperishable quality of a gentle and quiet spirit, which is precious in the sight of God.

5 For in this way in former times the holy women also, who hoped in God, used to adorn themselves, being submissive to their own husbands;

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 in the same way, live with your wives in an understanding way, as with someone weaker, since she is a woman; and show her honor as a fellow heir of the grace of life, so that your prayers will not be hindered.

8 To sum up, all of you be harmonious, sympathetic, brotherly, kind-hearted, and humble in spirit;

1 Cor 14:33-35

33 for God is not a God of confusion but of peace, as in all the churches of the saints.

34 The women are to keep silent in the churches; for they are not permitted to speak, but are to subject themselves, just as the Law also says.

35 If they desire to learn anything, let them ask their own husbands at home; for it is improper for a woman to speak in church.

Eph 5:22-6:4

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,

26 so that He might sanctify her, having cleansed her by the washing of water with the word,

27 that He might present to Himself the church in all her glory, having no spot or wrinkle or any such thing; but that she would be holy and blameless.

28 So husbands ought also to love their own wives as their own bodies. He who loves his own wife loves himself;

29 for no one ever hated his own flesh, but nourishes and cherishes it, just as Christ also does the church,

30 because we are members of His body.

31 FOR THIS REASON A MAN SHALL LEAVE HIS FATHER AND MOTHER AND SHALL BE JOINED TO HIS WIFE, AND THE TWO SHALL BECOME ONE FLESH.

32 This mystery is great; but I am speaking with reference to Christ and the church.

33 Nevertheless, each individual among you also is to love his own wife even as himself, and the wife must see to it that she respects her husband.

6:1 Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right.

2 HONOR YOUR FATHER AND MOTHER (which is the first commandment with a promise),

3 SO THAT IT MAY BE WELL WITH YOU, AND THAT YOU MAY LIVE LONG ON THE EARTH.

4 Fathers, do not provoke your children to anger, but bring them up in the discipline and instruction of the Lord.

Gen 3:16

16 To the woman He said, "I will greatly multiply your pain in childbirth, in pain you will bring forth children; yet your desire will be for your husband, and he will rule over you."

(All Scripture taken from the New American Standard updated)