
Resources

- Watch or listen to Sunday's sermon: abfboone.com/complementarianism-sermon
- Find Life Group resources: abfboone.org/groups/resources

1 Timothy 2:8-15

8 I desire then that in every place the men should pray, lifting holy hands without anger or quarreling; 9 likewise also that women should adorn themselves in respectable apparel, with modesty and self-control, not with braided hair and gold or pearls or costly attire, 10 but with what is proper for women who profess godliness—with good works. 11 Let a woman learn quietly with all submissiveness. 12 I do not permit a woman to teach or to exercise authority over a man; rather, she is to remain quiet. 13 For Adam was formed first, then Eve; 14 and Adam was not deceived, but the woman was deceived and became a transgressor. 15 Yet she will be saved through childbearing—if they continue in faith and love and holiness, with self-control.

Sermon Outline:

1. How women learn in the gathered assembly (11)
2. How women act in the gathered assembly (12)
3. The Biblical basis (13-14)
4. The hope offered to women (15)

Life Group Leader Notes:

We took a brief break in our Titus study this week to discuss a culturally significant issue: the role of men & women in the church. When Paul gave Titus the qualifications of elders, he assumed male eldership. Pastor Scott preached on a parallel text, 1 Timothy 2, that articulates why we have male elders at Alliance Bible Fellowship. The elders have also written a statement to provide some clarity. (abfboone.com/complementarianism)



Weekly Discussion Guide

•Perhaps this is a new issue for you, or perhaps you have thought deeply on the subject. What is your understanding of complementarianism? This can be a divisive issue, so it might be good to consider how people's experiences have influenced their understanding on the subject. Have they allowed Scripture to speak into their lives? Has a pastor been influential in their views? Did their parents shape their views (positive or negative)? Have they been in a church that modeled complementarianism well? Or one that modeled it poorly?

•1 Timothy 2 is a highly discussed passage. Over the past few decades, a host of new interpretations have surfaced to allow some flexibility in Paul's teaching on male eldership. New views suggest that Paul was either wrong, or his teaching was intended for the specific cultural context of 1st Century Ephesus. But as Pastor Scott mentioned, the complementarian position is the most biblical and historical position. The main reason the biblical position has faced scrutiny over the past few decades is because the church has faced cultural pressure. As Pastor Scott said, *we are always in danger of letting the culture overrule scripture.*

-Where else do you see this happening in the church?

-Why is it important to stay faithful to the teaching of the Bible, even when it is unpopular?

-Are there any areas in your own life where you have let culture - or your own personal preference - overrule scripture?

•Paul's stance on women in the church was counter cultural in the 1st Century. He encouraged women in the church to learn, while the society discouraged this. What are some other examples in the Bible and in church history where God's design for men & women has actually dignified or valued women in the face of culture? (See the introduction to the statement for more ideas to generate discussion).

•In what ways does the biblical teaching on complementarianism dignify women in the 21st Century?

•To be a complementarian church, both the men and women in the church need to rely on one another. Men, what are ways that you can rely on your spiritual mothers and sisters? What would be lost without their godly presence? Women, what are ways that you can rely on your spiritual fathers and brothers? What would be lost without their godly presence? When we rely on one another as a healthy church family living in God's design, what does this show the world?

•Men, where were you convicted this week? What is God calling you to do in response to this sermon? Women, where were you convicted this week? What is God calling you to do in response to this sermon?

•Our culture is confused on gender roles. Perhaps the women can speak on some of the confusing messages and pressures they receive. How can the church lead the way to providing clarity? Specifically, how can your life group model complementarianism? How would that display the gospel to a confused world?

•What happens to a family or church or society when men and women abdicate their God-given roles and try to live outside of God's design? Have you seen this happen? Have you seen a family or church that modeled this well?

