A Sit-Down With the Inventor of Gender March 3, 2024

*1 Timothy 2:8-15 Series: How the Church Falls off the Rails*

There is a deep fundamental very-goodness to the way God has designed us to be, and our being made as men and women is at the heart of it. – Sam Allberry

Intro: Rediscovering what’s good about our gender

1. God’s liberation of men begins with a humble dependence on God, not an angry fight for yourself
2. This was a message Paul kept repeating

v. 8 *in every place*

v. 9 *likewise*

1. Men struggle to acknowledge that they’re not God

v. 8 *the men should pray*

v. 8 *lifting holy hands*

1. Anger and arguments are usually evidence of pride

v. 8 *without anger or quarreling*

Proverbs 14:29 *Whoever is slow to anger has great understanding, but he who has a hasty temper exalts folly.*

Ecclesiastes 7:9 *Be not quick in your spirit to become angry, for anger lodges in the heart of fools.*

Proverbs 16:32 *Whoever is slow to anger is better than the mighty, and he who rules his spirit than he who takes a city.*

* What is there about God’s creation of man and woman that He would call it “very good” (Genesis 1:31)?
* Why do men seem to have a particular struggle with prayer?
* How is wisdom shown in a slowness to anger?
* How are prayer and anger related?
1. God’s liberation of women begins with a vision of goodness you can attain, not a standard of beauty that you can’t
2. Glamming up seems like the path to power

v. 9 *not with braided hair and gold or pearls or costly attire*

1. There’s rest and relief in the pursuit of inner beauty

v. 9 *women should adorn themselves in respectable apparel, with modesty and self-control*

v. 10 *with what is proper for women who profess godliness—with good works*

1 Peter 3:4 *let your adorning be the hidden person of the heart with the imperishable beauty of a gentle and quiet spirit, which in God's sight is very precious*

Proverbs 31:30 *Charm is deceitful, and beauty is vain, but a woman who fears the LORD is to be praised.*

* Why would Roman women have been tempted to think that *“braided hair and gold and pearls”* were the answer?
* Why is inner beauty so precious to God?
* We normally think of God as the only one who should be praised. Why does God want us to praise women who fear the Lord?
1. God’s design is for the genders to complement each other, not compete with one another
2. There are roles reserved for men and women

v. 12 *I do not permit a woman to teach or to exercise authority over a man; rather, she is to remain quiet.*

v. 11 *Let a woman learn quietly with all submissiveness.*

1 Corinthians 11:5 *every wife who prays or prophesies*

2 Thessalonians 3:12 *Now such persons we command and encourage in the Lord Jesus Christ to do their work quietly and to earn their own living.*

Harold O. J. Brown: When opinions and convictions suddenly undergo dramatic alteration, although nothing new has been discovered and the only thing that has dramatically changed is the spirit of the age, it is difficult to avoid the conclusion that that spirit has had an important role to play in the shift.

1. God’s design for gender was baked into the garden

Genesis 1:27 *God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them.*

Galatians 3:28 *there is no male and female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus*

v. 13 *For Adam was formed first, then Eve*

v. 14 *Adam was not deceived, but the woman was deceived and became a transgressor*

1. The answers are in God’s design not the world’s false promises

v. 15 *Yet she will be saved through childbearing—if they continue in faith and love and holiness, with self-control.*

1 Timothy 4:16 *Keep a close watch on yourself and on the teaching. Persist in this, for by so doing you will save both yourself and your hearers.*

Abigail Favale: A woman is the kind of human being whose body is organized according to the potential of gestation and generating within herself.

* What does v. 12 forbid? What does it not forbid?
* Why would the order of God creating Adam first matter?
* In what sense is a woman saved by accepting her unique design? In what sense would Timothy be saved in accepting his distinct calling?
* How is a woman’s role in childbearing looked down upon today?

Study ahead: Next week, we’ll study 1 Timothy 3:1-7.

Notes