

Reformation Fellowship Notes • December 10, 2017

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Does Paul Forbid Women from Teaching?

1 Timothy 2:11-3:1a

1 Timothy 2:11-3:1a > TEXT

γυνὴ ἐν ἡσυχίᾳ μανθανέτω ἐν πάσῃ ὑποταγῇ· διδάσκειν δὲ γυναικὶ οὐκ ἐπιτρέπω
οὐδὲ ἀθροεῖν ἀνδρός. ἀλλ' εἶναι ἐν ἡσυχίᾳ.

Ἀδὰμ γὰρ πρῶτος ἐπλάσθη, εἶτα Εὐα.
καὶ Ἀδὰμ οὐκ ἠπατήθη, ἡ δὲ γυνὴ ἐξαπατηθεῖσα ἐν παραβάσει γέγονεν.
σωθήσεται δὲ διὰ τῆς τεκνογονίας—ἐὰν μείνωσιν ἐν πίστει καὶ ἀγάπῃ καὶ
ἀγιασμῷ μετὰ σωφροσύνης.

πιστὸς ὁ λόγος.

§ § §

1 Timothy 2:11-3:1a >TRANSLATION

A wife, in *hesuchia*, is to receive instruction with complete subordination; I do not permit a wife to give instructions to and impose her own will on her husband. Rather she is to be in *hesuchia*. For,

Adam was formed first, then Eve.

And Adam was not deceived, but—his wife being completely deceived—he happened into transgression.

But he will be saved through child-bearing—if they persist in belief and love and sanctifiedness, with *sophrosune*.

This statement is reliable.

Reconstruction of the “Reliable Statement”

Adam was formed first, then Eve.

And Adam was not deceived, but—his wife being completely deceived—he happened into transgression.

But he will be saved through child-bearing—if they persist in belief and love and sanctifiedness.

Purpose of the “Reliable Statement”

To offer a synopsis of the purposes of God within human history as they are revealed by the accounts in Genesis, the earliest glimpse into God’s purposes that can be found in the Scriptures; it is a synopsis that focuses especially on the respective roles of the male and the female within those purposes.

The purpose of the “Statement” is not primarily about the husband-wife relationship; it is primarily about identifying God’s purposes for humanity (namely, his purpose to create mankind in a state of sin and condemnation in order that he might rescue mankind from sin and condemnation). However, it is a statement that happens to outline the respective roles of the husband and wife within those purposes. It is this latter, secondary, aspect of the statement that leads Paul to utilize it in support of his counsel to wives regarding their relationships to their husbands. Part of what the “Statement” asserts is superfluous and unnecessary to the point that Paul is making to his readers. He includes it simply because he is citing the “Statement” in its entirety.

Synopsis of the “Reliable Statement”

- Adam was created first; Eve was created afterward, to be his helper.
 - = <Adam was the “head” in his marriage relationship to Eve.>
- Adam disobeyed and became the first accountable transgressor, even though it was not through him, but through his wife Eve, that sin was introduced into the world.
 - = <Even though Adam committed the first transgression—the transgression that established all humanity as under the sentence of death—Eve was the agent through whom sin was introduced into the world.>
- Adam—and, hence, all of mankind as well—will be rescued from its condemnation to death—from the just penalty for its sin and transgression; and Adam’s wife Eve will be the conduit through whom that rescue will come.
 - = <While the female [Eve] was the agent through whom sin entered the world, the female [Eve] is also the agent through whom salvation enters the world.>