



What the Bible Says to Women Pt.3: Attacks, Warnings, and Particular Sins

May 21, 2023

Series goals:

1. To Encourage God's daughters and the entire church.
2. To Equip and Edify you to stand on truth, for such a time as this.
3. To Extol and Exalt the LORD who is glorious in His Truth!

Holy Text: 2 Tim 3:1-7

First, let us face down the giant: women sin.

Indeed, our text describes women, likely at Ephesus, who were "laden" with sins. Apparently, these women were the special targets of false teachers/converts, whose list of negative traits is great! (vv.2-4)

But this actually makes some sense to me. What kind of wicked person must one be to take advantage of women? What kind of evil worldview must one have to "creep" into a woman's home (presumably, if married her husband wasn't there), trick them, and inflame their lusts? (v.6)

Beloved, this is what Satan did!

These teachers' unholy message sounded good...they had a "form of godliness," but it was false. They denied the true power of God. They must be rejected! (v.5)

The women did not reject them. Paul places blame upon the women too for not being discerning and "forever following new teachings, but they are never able to understand the truth." (v.7 NLT)

Now, if this was the environment in first century Ephesus, how much more now?

Sisters, it's really important that you understand the motivation behind today's message. Our motivation is the opposite of the false teachers we read about in our Text. Christ's Church needs sanctified (not silly) women and courageous (not captive) daughters of Zion!

This will require both bold preachers and humble hearers. Contrary to popular opinion, women must embrace their capacity to sin and remain repentant before the LORD just like men.

Equal Opportunity Sin and Lawbreaking: Pride and the 10 Commandments

1. Men and women are equal sinners. What? Yes...Men sin and women sin.
2. Yes this is obvious, but it is sometimes harder to think of women as sinners, not just victims.
3. Plus, it has been inherent in cultures that esteem women to shun thinking of them on the whole as capable as men of transgression and wickedness. Remember this old 19th century nursery rhyme?

What are little boys made of
What are little boys made of
Snips & snails & puppy dogs tails
And such are little boys made of.

What are little girls made of
What are little girls made of
Sugar & spice & all things nice
And such are little girls made of.

4. First, pride, which is the root of all sin, is in the heart of all, including women. (Gen 3; Isa 3:16-26)
5. Male and Female, as shown in Scripture, are also equal breakers of the Moral Laws of God, The 10 Commandments:
 - I. Thou shalt have no other gods before me.
 - II. Thou shalt not make unto thee any graven image.
 - III. Thou shalt not take the name of the LORD thy God in vain.
 - IV. Remember the Sabbath day, to keep it holy.
 - V. Honor thy father and thy mother.
 - VI. Thou shalt not kill.
 - VII. Thou shalt not commit adultery.
 - VIII. Thou shalt not steal.
 - IX. Thou shalt not bear false witness against thy neighbor.
 - X. Thou shalt not covet thy neighbour's house, thou shalt not covet thy neighbour's wife, nor his manservant, nor his maidservant, nor his ox, nor his ass, nor any thing that *is* thy neighbour's.
6. CRC, with respect to our need for a Savior, we are "equal" indeed. Thank God He is not respecter of persons when He saves us!

Romans 1:18-28 (KJV) *For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who hold the truth in unrighteousness; 19 Because that which may be known of God is manifest in them; for God hath shewed it unto them. 20 For the invisible things of him from the creation of the world are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even his eternal power and Godhead; so that they are without excuse: 21 Because that, when they knew God, they glorified him not as God, neither were thankful; but became vain in their imaginations, and their foolish heart was darkened. 22 Professing themselves to be wise, they became fools, 23 And changed the glory of the uncorruptible God into an image made like to corruptible man, and to birds, and fourfooted beasts, and creeping things. 24 Wherefore God also gave them up to uncleanness through the lusts of their own hearts, to dishonour their own bodies between themselves: 25 Who changed the truth of God into a lie, and worshipped and served the creature more than the Creator, who is blessed for ever. Amen. 26 For this cause God gave them up unto vile affections: for even their women did change the natural use into that which is against nature: 27 And likewise also the men, leaving the natural use of the woman, burned in their lust one toward another; men with men working that which is unseemly, and receiving in themselves that recompence of their error which was meet. 28 And even as they did not like to retain God in their knowledge, God gave them over to a reprobate mind, to do those things which are not convenient;*

Galatians 3:28 (KJV) *There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither bond nor free, there is neither male nor female: for ye are all one in Christ Jesus.*

A Hostile Environment that limits Growth

There is much hostility by Christians towards Verses that deal with women directly. There are more reasons for this:

1. Because there is a fear offending women.
2. Because there is a fear to be called an offender of women.
3. Because of feminism.
4. Because of Satanic attack.
5. Because women have been abused in the past.

As a result, many women haven't been properly exhorted to fight against the sins that "doth so easily beset" them. (Heb 12:1) **This has stunted the spiritual growth of God's daughters, and subsequently hurt them and those who love and need them!**

Some Thoughts on Feminism

1. Particularly, we believe Satan has used feminism to attack women.
2. Feminism is difficult to discuss because it is often difficult to define.
3. Most people view it as equality for women...in voting, work, law, etc.
4. These things normally sound good to everyone so any attack on feminism is framed as an attack on women.
5. But remember how we defined Biblical Equality (or Equity) from Matthew 20:1-16:
 - "Our current world is consumed with the idea of equality. *Consumed* may actually be a weaker word than needed to describe it. Culture worships its idea of equality. But its idea is a false one. Culture used to define equality as "equivalent or parity of outcome for all." More recently it seems, culture defines equality as "what we feel we deserve at any given moment."
 - These are not only unbiblical concepts, they are sinful concepts. They fly in the face of the sovereignty of God and the depravity of man.
 - When we read the word "equal" in the KJV, it either means "equivalent" or "right" or "just"—as God defines those terms. Scripture knows nothing of equality based on feelings or on effort/results for all.
 - **Rather, *equity* in Scripture can be defined as "justice or rightness." It is God's equitable or divinely fair distribution of justice, gifts, and treatment. Critically, it is tied to His sovereignty and wisdom.**
 - And this is why *biblical equality* (or equity) is hard for us. Most of us would fully agree with the earlier workers in The Parable of the Vineyard. If we were them, we too would exclaim that we are owed more!
 - This is popular, but false thinking. Your job may work this way but the Kingdom does not. God (the householder) can do what He wants with what belongs to Him.
 - God creates us differently and orchestrates our lives in diverse ways. Some of us are smarter, taller, shorter, can sing (or can't!), are more or less athletic, are healthier or not, have big or small families, and will live longer or shorter lives. We are born in different places, into different circumstances, and have different passions. Yes, God's Law applies equally, but people aren't and never have been "equal."¹

¹ CRC Sermon: "The Equity of God," July 2022

6. In the 1800's, feminism and its proponents began overturning **God's Equity** for cultural (and always changing!) equality. This is the core issue: **in Feminism (like most ungodly "isms"), Scripture is NOT sufficient!**
7. Although beyond the scope of this message, there are good and godly, biblical answers for all areas of perceived or legitimate unfairness.
8. **God's Word is absolutely filled with protections and privileges for women as we'll see next week. God loves His daughters!**

Attacks, Warnings, and Particular Sins of Women

Bible commands (do this, don't to that sayeth the LORD), principles, and narratives give us insight to our particular weaknesses. Therefore we offer these encouragements (via biblical warnings and cautions) for your growth, maturity, repentance, and household blessing!

1. Discontentment with her assigned Role and Duties

Genesis 3:1-6 (KJV) *Now the serpent was more subtil than any beast of the field which the LORD God had made. And he said unto the woman, Yea, hath God said, Ye shall not eat of every tree of the garden? **2** And the woman said unto the serpent, We may eat of the fruit of the trees of the garden: **3** But of the fruit of the tree which is in the midst of the garden, God hath said, Ye shall not eat of it, neither shall ye touch it, lest ye die. **4** And the serpent said unto the woman, Ye shall not surely die: **5** For God doth know that in the day ye eat thereof, then your eyes shall be opened, and ye shall be as gods, knowing good and evil. **6** And when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was pleasant to the eyes, and a tree to be desired to make one wise, she took of the fruit thereof, and did eat, and gave also unto her husband with her; and he did eat.*

- Eve had everything. A loving husband. Future children. A beautiful garden in which to live. Close fellowship with God!
- Satan, in the form of the serpent, was able to use subtility (cunning, craftiness) to deceive Eve into wanting more.
- The devil inspired in her an ungodly discontentment with who God made her (an helpmeet) and what God had given her. She wanted to "be as gods." (v.5)
- Again, if you want to called everything but a child of God in 2023, lovingly call women to their biblical roles. Shouts of "I'm more than just a..." will fill your ears, along with accusations of misogyny.
- CRC, that God's Word is seen as limiting to women is incredibly sad.

2. A Desire to Dominate/Lead Men

Genesis 3:16 (KJV) *Unto the woman he said, I will greatly multiply thy sorrow and thy conception; in sorrow thou shalt bring forth children; and thy desire shall be to thy husband, and he shall rule over thee.*

- The word for desire in Hebrew means "a stretching after...a longing." At first, that sounds pretty good! Physical desire for one's husband is a good and godly thing. God commanded them to "be fruitful and multiply and fill the earth!"
- But this is describing a curse.
- Increased pain in childbearing (still present today) was the first part of the curse.

- The second part implies the sort of “desire” that will cause the husband to “rule over thee.”
- We get a clue in the next chapter:

Genesis 4:7 (KJV) *If thou doest well, shalt thou not be accepted? and if thou doest not well, sin lieth at the door. And unto thee shall be his desire, and thou shalt rule over him.*

- Just as sin desired to rule Cain and Cain is commanded to rule over it, likewise, part of the curse is a woman’s desire to lead or rule over her husband, but he must exercise rule instead.
- That easy and tender headship/submission relationship we read about in Genesis 2 was destroyed because of sin. Now, there would be difficulty.
- We see God’s love in exhorting his daughters in this again and again in the NT:

Ephesians 5:22-24 (KJV) *Wives, submit yourselves unto your own husbands, as unto the Lord. **23** For the husband is the head of the wife, even as Christ is the head of the church: and he is the saviour of the body. **24** Therefore as the church is subject unto Christ, so let the wives be to their own husbands in every thing.*

Ephesians 5:22 (KJV) *Wives, submit yourselves unto your own husbands, as unto the Lord.*

1 Timothy 2:12-14 (KJV) *But I suffer not a woman to teach, nor to usurp authority over the man, but to be in silence. **13** For Adam was first formed, then Eve. **14** And Adam was not deceived, but the woman being deceived was in the transgression.*

1 Corinthians 14:33-34 (KJV) *For God is not the author of confusion, but of peace, as in all churches of the saints. **34** Let your women keep silence in the churches: for it is not permitted unto them to speak; but they are commanded to be under obedience, as also saith the law.*

Titus 2:5 (KJV) *To be discreet, chaste, keepers at home, good, obedient to their own husbands, that the word of God be not blasphemed.*

1 Peter 3:1-2 (KJV) *Likewise, ye wives, be in subjection to your own husbands; that, if any obey not the word, they also may without the word be won by the conversation of the wives; **2** While they behold your chaste conversation coupled with fear.*

- Do you think God knew His daughters would struggle here?
- For those who say that submission was for a local situation only and as a result it no longer applies, not only does Paul reference “all churches of the saints,” in 1 Cor 14:33, but also Ephesus, Corinth, Crete, Pontus, Galatia, Cappadocia, Asia, and Bithynia are given similar commands! (1 Pet 1:1) The entire church world!
- A godly women must, by God’s grace, exercise soberness (Titus 2:4) and bring the sinful inclination to rebel under control.

3. Immodesty, which is normally (but not always) paired with Loudness/brashness/contentiousness

Bad examples:

2 Kings 9:30 (KJV) *And when Jehu was come to Jezreel, Jezebel heard of it; and she painted her face, and tired her head, and looked out at a window.*

Proverbs 7:9-12 (KJV) *In the twilight, in the evening, in the black and dark night: **10** And, behold, there met him a woman with the attire of an harlot, and subtil of heart. **11** (She is loud and stubborn; her feet abide not in her house: **12** Now is she without, now in the streets, and lieth in wait at every corner.)*

Proverbs 9:13 (KJV) *A foolish woman is clamorous: she is simple, and knoweth nothing.*

Proverbs 21:9 (KJV) *It is better to dwell in a corner of the housetop, than with a brawling woman in a wide house.*

Proverbs 19:13 (KJV) *A foolish son is the calamity of his father: and the contentions of a wife are a continual dropping.*

Proverbs 27:15-16 (NLT) *A quarrelsome wife is as annoying as constant dripping on a rainy day. **16** Stopping her complaints is like trying to stop the wind or trying to hold something with greased hands.*

Good examples

1 Timothy 2:9-10 (KJV) *In like manner also, that women adorn themselves in modest apparel, with shamefacedness and sobriety; not with broided hair, or gold, or pearls, or costly array; **10** But (which becometh women professing godliness) with good works.*

1 Peter 3:3-6 (KJV) *Whose adorning let it not be that outward adorning of plaiting the hair, and of wearing of gold, or of putting on of apparel; **4** But let it be the hidden man of the heart, in that which is not corruptible, even the ornament of a meek and quiet spirit, which is in the sight of God of great price. **5** For after this manner in the old time the holy women also, who trusted in God, adorned themselves, being in subjection unto their own husbands: **6** Even as Sara obeyed Abraham, calling him lord: whose daughters ye are, as long as ye do well, and are not afraid with any amazement.*

Does God really care about clothes? We believe He does!

Genesis 3:7 (KJV) *And the eyes of them both were opened, and they knew that they were naked; and they sewed fig leaves together, and made themselves aprons.*

Genesis 3:21 (KJV) *Unto Adam also and to his wife did the LORD God make coats of skins, and clothed them.*

*Kûttône*th is the word for coats in Hebrew. It means “a robe” and is used 29 times in the OT. An interesting study for those interested!

4. Manipulation/Deceiving

- It is important to note that these things are not unique to women. Men do them too.

- However, men have other options. They are typically stronger and can use their strength and authority in ungodly ways to get what they want.
- Lacking such, women can sometimes be tempted to use the same trick used on her in the garden: subtly/cunning and manipulation. Examples?
 1. Lot's daughters (Gen 19:30-38)
 2. Rebekah helping Jacob usurp Esau's birthright (Gen 27)
 3. Potiphar's wife lying on Joseph (Gen 39)
 4. Jezebel manipulating Naboth's death for his field (1 Kings 21)
 5. Herodias getting John the Baptist killed (Mark 6)

If you ask "women about women," they will even admit this!

Sisters, your influence is powerful, made all the more so because good men WANT to please the women in their lives.

Much is rightly said about the excellence of the Proverbs 31 Wife. Little is said about the Proverbs 5-7 Woman:

Proverbs 5:1-5 (KJV) *My son, attend unto my wisdom, and bow thine ear to my understanding: 2 That thou mayest regard discretion, and that thy lips may keep knowledge. 3 For the lips of a strange woman drop as an honeycomb, and her mouth is smoother than oil: 4 But her end is bitter as wormwood, sharp as a twoedged sword. 5 Her feet go down to death; her steps take hold on hell.*

Proverbs 6:23-26 (KJV) *For the commandment is a lamp; and the law is light; and reproofs of instruction are the way of life: 24 To keep thee from the evil woman, from the flattery of the tongue of a strange woman. 25 Lust not after her beauty in thine heart; neither let her take thee with her eyelids. 26 For by means of a whorish woman a man is brought to a piece of bread: and the adulteress will hunt for the precious life.*

Proverbs 7:4-5 (KJV) *Say unto wisdom, Thou art my sister; and call understanding thy kinswoman: 5 That they may keep thee from the strange woman, from the stranger which flattereth with her words.*

Proverbs 7:13-27 (KJV) *So she caught him, and kissed him, and with an impudent face said unto him, 14 I have peace offerings with me; this day have I payed my vows. 15 Therefore came I forth to meet thee, diligently to seek thy face, and I have found thee. 16 I have decked my bed with coverings of tapestry, with carved works, with fine linen of Egypt. 17 I have perfumed my bed with myrrh, aloes, and cinnamon. 18 Come, let us take our fill of love until the morning: let us solace ourselves with loves. 19 For the goodman is not at home, he is gone a long journey: 20 He hath taken a bag of money with him, and will come home at the day appointed. 21 With her much fair speech she caused him to yield, with the flattering of her lips she forced him. 22 He goeth after her straightway, as an ox goeth to the slaughter, or as a fool to the correction of the stocks; 23 Till a dart strike through his liver; as a bird hasteth to the snare, and knoweth not that it is for his life. 24 Hearken unto me now therefore, O ye children, and attend to the words of my mouth. 25 Let not thine heart decline to her ways, go not astray in her*

paths. **26** For she hath cast down many wounded: yea, many strong men have been slain by her. **27** Her house is the way to hell, going down to the chambers of death.

5. An increased susceptibility to being deceived

- God's daughters, by holy design, are built to nourish and cherish and desire such. She is designed to be more trusting and more empathetic. She doesn't like conflict and generally wants to be agreeable and affirming and accepting/accepted.
- These are good things! We need these traits in our wives and mothers!
- But Satan knows this too.

2 Timothy 3:6 (KJV) For of this sort are they which creep into houses, and lead captive silly women laden with sins, led away with divers lusts,

2 Corinthians 11:3 (KJV) But I fear, lest by any means, as the serpent beguiled Eve through his subtilty, so your minds should be corrupted from the simplicity that is in Christ.

- It was no accident that the devil went after Eve. It's no accident that the women in our Text were "crept" on by false teachers. It's no accident that some of the most ungodly and woman/family-destroying movements today are being led by or cheered on by women: abortion, feminism, Marxism, witchcraft, drag-queens and LGBTQ acceptance, open boarders, etc.
- One benefit of courageous husbands/brothers and strong local church elders and deacons is guarding against this propensity, so that a woman's God-given grace isn't turned into gullibility.

Suggestions to better heed these warnings and overcome these sins:

1. Prayer. Pray in these areas for God's enablement Sisters!
2. Remember the Gospel; remember Christ! You belong to Him!
3. Study the Scripture for yourself!
4. Know that God's Word for you is good! His commandments are not burdensome! (1 Jn 5:3)
5. Listen to godly people; get *anointed* counsel, not just *agreeable* counsel!
6. Attend a strong, courageous church who loves you enough to give you the whole counsel of God.
7. If married, go to your husband for help! (1 Cor 14:35)

Amen!