

RCSS

Women in Office: Lesson 2

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Series outline:

**1) Male and female made in the image of God**

- Unity → made in the image of God :: cultural mandate
- Diversity → complementarian order in marriage
- Order grounded in the Trinity and in creation

**2) The Fall and the perversion of the created order**

3) God's preservation of the created order: marriage, family and beyond

4) Corresponding gender roles in the family and in the church

5) Why Scripture sanctions ordination of men only

6) The error of a hermeneutic of social justice

7) Addressing some objections

**The fall & the perversion of the created order**

- Is push for women in office be a result of our perversion of the Word rather than better clarity on the Word?

**:: The Fall and the perversion of the created order**

- The Fall (Gen. 3)
  - Adam did not take lead in guarding the Garden Temple (Gen. 2:15)
  - Tempter
    - Aimed at deceiving (Gen. 3:4ff)
    - Eve did not consult with Adam
    - Adam sinned by following Eve's and eating of the fruit

- The distortion of the created order
  - Curse on man and woman
    - Be fruitful and multiply → pain in child-bearing (Gen. 3:16a)
    - Have dominion → laboring among thorns and thistles (Gen. 3:17)
      - Reversal: animals and natural disasters will now destroy humans
  - Curse upon relationships (Gen. 3:16b)
    - Distortion of natural desire of woman for man, and *vice versa*
      - Wife wresting authority from husband :: slavish dependence
      - Husband becoming coercive
    - Marriage in general (Proverbs – warnings against adultery)
    - Need for the State (Gen. 9; Rom. 13)
      - Cain killing his brother (Gen. 4)
    - Tower of Babel (Gen. 11)
    - Repeated idolatry :: Israel as a nation (Ex. 32)
    - Sexual immortality → adultery :: incest :: bestiality :: concubines
      - Heart so perverse: we think what is unnatural is natural (Rom. 1)
      - Depths of the wickedness of human heart is beyond finding out (Jer. 17:9)

## :: The fall-out in marriage and family

- Genesis 3:16ff unfolds
- Secular humanism and its carnage
  - (i) Militant atheism
  - (ii) Unrestrained quest for self-expression and self-gratification
    - Triumph of narcissism and the therapeutic
    - Moral choices are subordinate to personal choice and self-interest
  - (iii) Individual over community
    - Self-realisation and ambition at all expense
  - (iv) Technological age and busyness
    - Always connected

- Dual income families
- (v) Unbridled capitalism and pursuit of material wealth
  - Mechanical pragmatism
- (vi) Sexual revolution (1960s and following)
  - Fornication and breakdown of marriage
  - Same-sex marriage
  - Children out of wedlock :: HIV epidemic
    - Burden on single mom's :: healthcare :: economy
  - Proliferation of porn → abuse of men, women and children
- (vii) Feminism and feminist theology
  - Brief history
    - Feminist theology developed in 18<sup>th</sup> century out of feminist movement
      - Kind of liberation theological movement
    - Became radical in the 1960s and 70s
    - Range of versions/ feminist theologians
      - More conservative to radical
  - Some valid critiques
    - Distinguish women's equality from radical feminist theology
    - Demeaning stereotypes
      - Women as sex objects
      - Domestic abuse: physical and emotional
      - Women being relegated to home :: not being able to vote
  - *Nevertheless*, feminist movement as damaging ideology
    - Rejection of patriarchy
    - Attack on trad. marriage (along with homosexuality & divorce)
      - Its nature and purpose
    - Minimising of differences between sexes
      - Gnosticism
    - Endorsement of homosexuality :: no-fault divorce :: abortion
  - Theologically
    - Re-writing doctrines of sin and salvation

- Gender-neutral version of the Bible
- Endorsement of same-sex marriage
- Ordination of women

## :: The fall-out in the church

- Read **1 Timothy 4**
- General
  - Temptation is for the church to become like the world
    - Seemingly noble motives
      - Unity, love, reputation in the eyes of the world etc.
      - Social justice
    - Otherwise, fruit of deceitful and corrupt hearts (idolatry)
  - Examples include:
    - Lack of submission to the Word
    - Pelagianism: exaltation of the human will
    - Innovations in worship
    - Deterioration of importance of means of grace
    - No longer observing the Lord's Day
- More specifically: worldliness in family and marriage
  - Sex before marriage
  - Marrying a non-believer
  - Delaying marriage, and having children
  - Neglect of catechesis and family worship
  - Homosexuality
- Women in office
  - Downplaying importance and authority of office in general
    - Every-member ministry :: under pretense of priesthood of believers
    - Idea that equal rights and equal access in broader society applies to all positions within the church irrespective of qualification or gender
      - Education, employment and law
      - Social, political, economic and religious

- Egalitarianism with respect to office/ ministry
  - Is this based on world or Word?
  - What is driving it?
    - The times in which we live? Greed? Seeking after power?
  
  - Witness of order in marriage and in the church
    - Genesis 1
    - Ephesians 5
    - 1 Timothy 2

**:: Stand firm and count the cost**

- Heed the Word and submit to it
  - Even when going against the tide of popular opinion
  - We cannot consume popular culture wholesale and uncritically