

RCSS

Women in Office: Lesson III

Rev. Simon Jooste

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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 pre-Fall creation

2) The Fall and the perversion of the created order

- Strikes at the heart of marriage and family: twisting gender relations
- The church has always been tempted to worldliness
- Secular humanism: the individual will trumps community and everything

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

God's preservation of the created order

- Order prior to the Fall
 - Order in the Trinity (cf. John 17)
 - Subordination by no means demeans essential personhood
 - Order per the federal headship of Adam (cf. Gen. 1-2; Rom. 5)
 - Order in gender-relations/ marriage/ family
 - Adam and Eve (Gen. 1-2)
 - Fifth commandment and the moral law (Ex. 20)

- The Fall has created disorder → see #2 in outline above
- The world would unravel without God's intervention

:: God as providential sustainer in Christ

- God's two kingdoms: church and State
 - Christians are dual citizens
- Noahic covenant (Gen. 8:20-9:17)
 - Repeat of the creation mandate
 - Community: “*be fruitful and multiply*” → make culture
 - Community and culture-making rooted in creation
 - Provision of the State (cf. Gen. 4; Rom. 13)
 - Provide relative peace and order in world cursed by sin

:: Preserved in community

- The world of the Bible and pre-modern was communal
 - Marriage → family → church → neighbourhood → society
 - Identity formed in relation to others
 - We had no choice what family we were born into
 - Authority and submission is assumed, on account of differences
 - Communities have structures of governance, authority & accountability
 - Subordination and submission is part and parcel of life
- Implications for both kingdoms
 - Civil kingdom
 - Marriage
 - Family: children are to submit to and honor parents (Ex. 20:12)
 - Business
 - State: all commanded to submit to rulers (cf. Rom. 13)
 - Education: we are students throughout life in some sense
 - Church
 - Church officers and ordination: ministers, elders and deacons

- cf. 1-2 Timothy
- Submission to elders (cf. Heb. 13)
- Church discipline implies authority and submission (cf. Matt. 18)
- Corporate worship: submission one to another (cf. 1 Cor. 10-11)
- Hierarchy in unfolding of redemptive history
 - Election of nation of Israel
 - Israel having less revelation (cf. Matt. 11)
- *Therefore*, should not surprise us that hierarchy in broader society, particularly marriage, translates over into the church
- The bane of modern individualism
 - Moving away from relation to function
 - About producing goods and outcomes
 - Individual as sovereign in all matters
 - Theological Gnosticism
- Taking huge toll on family and church (cf. last week's lesson)

:: Creation renewed (created anew), not overcome in Christ

- Distinctions remain
 - We are not only “in Christ” (cf. Gal. 3:28)
 - Also citizens of State and broader society
 - cf. Paul's comments on slavery (Col. 3:22)
- Will be order in heaven
 - Trinity
 - Jesus is still incarnate
 - Hierarchy: present (believe like child: Matt. 18:4) and future (rewards)
- What is at stake
 - Misconstruing gospel in terms of political/social freedom & equality
 - Accommodation of gospel to political and economic norms of our day