

Back to the Future

Men and women in the church through the lens of our origins and our future

§1 1 Timothy - The Context of a Controversial Text

§1.1 The Setting and Audience of the Letter

§1.2 The structure of the letter

§1.3 The central themes/concern

§1.3.1 eschatology (1:1; 4:1, 8-10; 6:6,13-19)

§1.3.2 salvation (1:1; 1:12-16; 2:1-7)

§1.3.3 the Church 3:14-15 (cf 1:4; Chs. 2,3&5)

§1.3.4 the household

The qualifications of elders/deacons (3:1-12)

The teaching of demons (4:3)

Conduct in ministry (5:1-2)

The care of widows (5:3-16)

§2 The two(?) references to Genesis

“Adam was formed first then Eve” (Gen 2:18-24)

Adam was not deceived; it was the woman who was deceived and became a sinner (Gen 3:1-6a)

a Possible Third? (Gen. 3:15)

§3 Making sense of the Argument

Is Paul's use of Genesis 2&3:

§3.1 Cumulative?

Adam formed first and not deceived - Male Superiority?

For - Adam's primogeniture assumed elsewhere - e.g.
Rom 5:14; 1 Cor 15:22

He is humanity's federal head - Eve's sin not mentioned

Against - Adam's primogeniture finds significance in context of Fall

He is humanity's federal head - Eve's sin not mentioned

Or

§3.2 Explanatory

Adam's primogeniture is in the context of the created order

Eve's deception involves an inversion of the created order (with Adam's failure in fact the more prominent).

Female leadership of the church, then, would risk recapitulating the fall.

Remember church as household of God and from Eph 5 - marriage as a picture of Christ and Church

Any ecclesiastical arrangement that undermines Christian marriage is a threat to the Church's eschatological witness.

§3.3 The strange word about childbirth

What kind of salvation?

(does “dia” mean “through” or “by means of”)

Elevating rather than deprecating the role of women

Ironically - it is the practice in Ephesus that threatens female dignity

§4 Men and Women in the Church

§4.1 telling the better story together - pointing back to the future

relating together in a way that upholds the value of marriage - a key signpost to the Gospel

§4.1.1 elevating and relativising sexuality

chastity as a key Christian virtue

Chastity as a powerful apologetic weapon

It's not just married people who honour Christ by honouring marriage
(Heb 13:4)

§4.1.2 Organising and ordering the Church

The church as God's household

Mutual reinforcement of domestic and ecclesiastical

A family for those with no family

§4.2 neither reactionary nor progressive: A radical reevaluation of power

§4.3 A beautiful alternative to a Narcissistic Culture

§4.3.1 The inherent violence of Narcissism

§4.3.2 Covert Narcissism and abuse in the Church

§5 Back to the future with Augustine

A tale of two cities...