



The Enlightenment

“The Age of Reason”

A deep suspicion of authority

God's authority is not *opposed* to our freedom but is the *source* of our freedom.

“Faith will totter if the authority of the divine Scriptures begins to waver.” – Augustine

What is real? What is true?

Men and women thrive in the church when we both submit to God's authority and good design.

God's authority is the *source* of our freedom and flourishing.

¹¹ Let a woman learn quietly with all submissiveness. ¹² I do not permit a woman to teach or to exercise authority over a man; rather, she is to remain quiet. ¹³ For Adam was formed first, then Eve; ¹⁴ and Adam was not deceived, but the woman was deceived and became a transgressor. ¹⁵ Yet she will be saved through childbearing—if they continue in faith and love and holiness, with self-control.

1 Timothy 2:11-15

Complementarianism is the view that men and women are equal in nature yet distinct in terms of their roles in the church and the home. The office of elder (pastor) is reserved for qualified men.

Egalitarianism is the view that women and men are equal in all respects... in their nature, in the offices of the church and in the home. The office of elder is open to both men and women.

Complementarian: universal command for male leadership

Egalitarian: culturally-specific command

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Paul is elevating women in the life of the church.

¹¹ Let a woman learn **quietly** with all submissiveness. ¹² I do not permit a woman to teach or to exercise authority over a man; rather, she is to remain **quiet**.

First of all, then, I urge that supplications, prayers, intercessions, and thanksgivings be made for all people, ² for kings and all who are in high positions, **that we may lead a peaceful and quiet life**, godly and dignified in every way.

Paul, an apostle of Christ Jesus by command of God
our Savior and of Christ Jesus our hope...

1 Timothy 1:1

17 Obey your leaders and submit to them, for they are keeping watch over your souls, as those who will have to give an account. Let them do this with joy and not with groaning, for that would be of no advantage to you.

Hebrews 13:17

Both men and women are to submit to the authority of
Christ.

Both men and women are to submit to the authority of
the teaching elder.

¹² I do not permit a woman to **teach** or to exercise authority over a man; rather, she is to remain quiet.

What kind of teaching?

Male leadership in the church

Male leadership in the home

Rooted in creation order

Women are essential to the ministry of the church.

¹³ For Adam was formed first, then Eve; ¹⁴ and Adam was not deceived, but the woman was deceived and became a transgressor.

Paul's argument is grounded in creation order.

Genesis affirms the equality of men and women

²⁷ So God created man in his own image,
in the image of God he created him;
male and female he created them.

Genesis 1:27

Male authority must be characterized by Christlike
love.

True masculinity mirrors the authority of Christ's love
for his church.

How can women exercise their **gifts**, for the sake of building up the church in a way that honors and is faithful to the Bible?

God's authority is the *source* of our freedom.