

Real Grapes - 18 November 2016

DESIGNED BY LOVE (7)

# INTEGRITY IS KEY!

## 1 TIMOTHY 2:8-15

### BACKGROUND/CONTEXT:

The truth of the Gospel: 1 Timothy 1:15

The task of Timothy: 1 Timothy 1:3

The experience ahead: 1 Timothy 1:18

The will of God: 1 Timothy 2:4

Turning therefore to the CHURCH...

### Reading: 1 Timothy 2:8-15...

Overall message: Integrity is key!

For example...

...in the conduct of men: 2:8

...in the conduct of women: 2:9-10

...in the teaching of the Bible: 2:11-12

...because it's the foundation of the church: Ephesians 2:19-20

...and what rules the church: 1 Timothy 5:17

What 2:11-12 is saying...

...as it addresses the controversial topic of women and leadership of the church.

The force of 2:11-12...

...and clarity...

...constituting an absolute prohibition...

...framed by commands to quietness...

...and so addressing the function of preaching, not the office of preacher...

...and not representing a transient, culturally-specific accommodation (pagan religion was mainly feminized and therefore as offended by this then as our church establishment is offended today)...

...but an enduring and universal creational ordinance (v13)...

...reflecting all that our gender studies in Genesis 1 (the equality of men and women)...

...and Genesis 2 (the complementarity of men and women) have taught us...

...regarding headship and submission...

...the failure of which led to the Fall (v14)...

...for which Adam was held responsible (Genesis 2:16-17, 3:6, 9)...

...as are men today, who exploit women in order to escape the authority of Scripture...

...and against which women need warning (v15).

All this is entirely consistent with New Testament teaching in which the church is saved by restored headship - that of Christ (Ephesians 5:23)...

...providing the Gospel that is modelled in the Christian family (Ephesians 5:31-32)...

...and, of course, the wider church family (1 Timothy 2:11-12).

Any other arrangement would be inconsistent and undermine everything we've so far learnt.

Yet this plain teaching is hated with a passion within much of our church establishment...

...but is key to the foundational integrity of the church...

...and its making disciple-makers mission to the world.

### **APPLICATION**

We must hold to this classically evangelical complementarian position...

...not surrendering to the feminizing fashion of our increasingly pagan church establishment.

We shun legalistic applications...

...but call our men to exercise courageous and heroic headship...

...that honours and protects our women...

...and doesn't hide behind or exploit them.

And v15b applies to us all, calling us all to...

*“faith*

*“love”*

*“holiness”*

*“self-control”*

Integrity is key!