

Week 4 - Wednesday, September 7  
ST. PAUL: APOSTLE TO THE WORD  
with Dr. Geoffrey Lentz

## Silent in Church? Women, Slaves, and Social Ethics

Readings: 1 Corinthians 14:33-35, 1 Timothy 2:9-15, 1 Corinthians 11:5, Acts 16:1-2, 1 Timothy 3:8-13, Romans 16:7, 1 Corinthians 1:11, Philippians 4:2-3, Galatians 3:28

Paul is often thought of as being unkind or unjust to women. We will learn how to interpret some of those difficult texts and see Paul's true belief about women, slaves, and others oppressed by society.

- I. Opening Reflection
- II. Review
- III. The Texts: 1 Corinthians 14:33-35, 1 Timothy 3:8-13
- IV. St. Paul and the Inclusion of Women in General
  - A. 1 Timothy 2:9-15, Philippians 4:2-3, Romans 16:7, 1 Corinthians 11:4-7, Galatians 3:28
  - B. Luke's Theology Luke 8, Acts 2, Acts 16:1-2
- V. Close Look at 1 Corinthians 14:33-35—
  - A. Addressing a specific problem
  - B. Incredulous reply/refutation, Refutation in 1 Corinthians 6 and 7
  - C. Cato the Elder in the wake of the "civil disobedience" of Roman women after the Battle of Cannae: "At home our freedom is conquered by female fury... What kind of behavior is this? Running around in public, blocking streets, and speaking to other women's husbands? Could you not have asked your own husbands the same thing at home?... Our ancestors did not want women to conduct any—not even private—business without a guardian; they wanted them to be under the authority of parents, brothers, or husbands..."
  - D. Text: "As in all the churches of the saints,<sup>34</sup> the women should keep silence in the churches. For they are not permitted to speak, but should be subordinate, as even the law says.<sup>35</sup> If there is anything they desire to know, let them ask their husbands at home. For it is shameful for a woman to speak in church.<sup>36</sup> What! Did the word of God originate with you, or are you the only ones it has reached?"(RSV)
- VI. Close Look at 1 Timothy 3:8-13—
  - A. Wider context—1 Tim 2:9-15
  - B. Addressing a specific problem—Temple of Aphrodite, false teachers
  - C. Women are to learn! Why learn unless to teach!
  - D. The verb here, *epitrepō*, is present, continual tense. Paul does not say 'I will not/never permit,' but rather, 'I am not [now] permitting.'
  - E. "Authority" here is *authentēs* denotes an aggressive and domineering attitude
- VII. The Curse of the Fall Undone, God's Image Restored
- VIII. Acts 2
- IX. Paul's Theology of Gender and Power
  - A. Galatians 3:28
  - B. Philippians 2
- X. Is Paul a Feminist?
- XI. Closing Reflection

## **They'll Know We Are Christians**

We are one in the Spirit;  
we are one in the Lord.  
We are one in the Spirit;  
we are one in the Lord.  
And we pray that all unity  
may one day be restored.

And they'll know we are Christians  
by our love, by our love.  
Yes, they'll know we are Christians  
by our love!

We will walk with each other;  
we will walk hand in hand.  
We will walk with each other;  
we will walk hand in hand.  
And together we will spread the news  
that God is in our land.

And they'll know we are Christians  
by our love, by our love.  
Yes, they'll know we are Christians  
by our love!