

ABSTRACT

The Silence of Women in Pauline Theology: An Exegetical and Theological analysis of First Timothy 2:11-15.

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The purpose of this thesis is to bridge the gap between a first century command and its application in a contemporary society.

The “gramatico–historical” method of exegesis and the “systematic theology” method of constructing a holistic system of theology with the application of non-biblical categories for contextualization are used. Paul’s “silence of women” was a disciplinary measure applied to women for abusing their privileged position in Christ, by teaching domineeringly in a patriarchal culture that restricted scholarship to men. Applying the command generally to women with disregard to its context, culture and purpose is arbitrary and therefore domineering. Hence such an application commits the very offence that the command is trying to prevent. It is also aiding and abetting disobedience to Christ’s “Great Commission” and a denial of women’s constitutional right of freedom of speech and right to employment, without discrimination based on gender. Therefore “Silence of women” may be viewed as a “male ego booster” which presents a false perspective of God.

The findings of this study are significant to the pastoral, apologetic and sociological relevance of the biblical message. It will discourage an ignorant application of scripture passages without any exegetical and theological analysis. Also, it will serve as a challenge to church leaders, pastors and theologians to begin a critical evaluation of questionable church practices and traditions that are purportedly biblical. It will also stimulate Bible students to study the scripture based on sound Biblical hermeneutical principles. Moreover, it will serve as a liberating signal for women that are under the oppressive yoke of a purported Biblical command, applied by a privileged group.

Keywords: Tombari Kpobe Tee; Exegetical and theological Analysis; Paul; silence of women; First Timothy; Disciplinary measure.