

WOMEN KEEP SILENCE in CHURCH Pt.4: EMASCULATED MEN, AMAZONS, ARTEMIS and APOLLO, SAVED in CHILDBEARING

WARNING: I am about to talk about a sexually mature subject so you may want to watch this part without your children.

I want to go back to the woman empowerment – man hating club of Artemis worshippers once again.

Roman Adoption and Rituals

The mother goddess who was taken to Rome from Pessinus received a great deal of respect. Elagabalus, one of the Roman emperors, during a ceremony, cut off his male organ as required according to the worship of Cybele, and presented it to the mother goddess. The incident proves the respect she received in Rome.



The Great Artemis and Beautiful Artemis Statues from Ephesus Archaeological Museum

Roman Adoption and Rituals – The mother goddess who was taken to Rome from Pessinus received a great deal of respect. Elagabalus, one of the Roman emperors, during a ceremony, cut off his male organ as required according to the worship of Cybele, and presented it to the mother goddess. The incident proves the respect she received in Rome.

Cybele and Artemis seem to be one and the same. When you look at the mother goddess worship cults, you will find that mostly they are all the same one just called by different names in different countries. She was Artemis in Greek, Diana

in Rome, Isis in Egypt, Ashtaroth in The Old Testament. In one of my study pictorial dictionaries it stated that Artemis worship was more like the impure worship of Ashtaroth of Phoenicia. Remember Artemis was called the queen of heaven and Ashtaroth was called that in our Bibles. **(Jeremiah 7:18, 44:17-25)**

The temple was administered by only a few priests. The male organs of these priests and the head priest called Megabysos were removed. According to Strabo, the priests were chosen from the middle of Anatolia and especially from the east. Becoming Megabysos meant assuming a very honourable duty. The assistants of Megabysos were virgins similar to the Vestal Virgins of Rome. Some say that the worship of Artemis, the Temple of Artemis and the religious hierarchy were all modelled on the social structure of bees. The bee was the symbol of Ephesus, and it is often seen on coins and statues in Ephesus.



Ephesian Artemis and Queen Bee reliefs on a coin

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More research:

In addition to pointing out that ascetics in the church of Asia Minor were castrating themselves, Basil points out why they were doing this. He reports that they were following the example of the priests of Cybele. New priests of the goddess Cybele would offer her their genitals in a bloody ritual that took place

once each year. The Greek name for this goddess was Artemis (see Philippe Borgeaud's "Mother of the Gods").

Artemis / Cybele mythology also taught that life and purity came from women, while evil came from men, especially from male sexuality.

During the first century, when Paul wrote his letter to Timothy, Roman law viewed depriving a man of his offspring via castration as a form of murder. To practice castration in religious ritual was viewed as sacrificing one's offspring to the deity (see Lex Cornelia de sicariis et veneficis).

Concerning "the women from the Thermadon," mentioned by Pausanias, historian Diodorus Siculus (1st century B.C.) had this to say:

"Beside the river of Thermadon, therefore, a nation ruled by females held sway, in which women pursued the arts of war just like men.... To the men she [the nation's Queen] relegated the spinning of wool and other household tasks of women. She promulgated laws whereby she led forth the women to martial strife, while on the men she fastened humiliation and servitude. She would maim the arms and legs of male children, making them useless for service in war."
[Diodorus Siculus, as cited in Murphy, E. (1989). *The Antiquities of Asia*, p. 58]

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This is about women from the area of Ephesus who participated in this matriarchal worship of Artemis.

Historian Pompeius Trogus (1st century B.C.) shares a similar account of this profoundly *matriarchal* culture:

“[The women]...dismissed all thought of intermarriage with their neighbors, calling it slavery rather than marriage. They embarked instead upon an enterprise unparalleled in the whole of history, that of building up a state without men and then actually defending it themselves, out of contempt for the male sex.... Then, with peace assured by their military success, they entered into sexual relationships with surrounding peoples so that their line would not die out. Males born of such unions they put to death, but girls they brought up in a way that adapted them to their own way of life.... After conquering most of Europe, they also seized a number of city-states in Asia. Here they founded Ephesus. [Yardly, J. (1994). *Epitome of the Philippic History of Pompeius Trogus*, p. 29]

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This shows us the mindset of the pagan worshippers of Artemis and how the women Paul was dealing with thought and acted prior to converting to Christianity.

Callimachus was a 3rd century B.C. scholar and poet. Diodorus Siculus was a 1st century B.C. historian. Pausanius was a 2nd century A.D. historian. They all write about a tribe of warrior women known as the Amazons. Historically, these women worshipped the mother of the gods, sometimes called “Artemis,” and they violently dominated men.

There has been archeological evidence that these amazon women did live. The luciferians have shown us this truth in their movies and comic books. It isn't that hard to understand this when you remember this all has to do with fallen angels mating with human women and producing nephilim.

Why were priests of the goddess traditionally castrated?

Simply put, *she did not like men*. Remember the killing and maiming of men by the Amazons mentioned above? Religious rituals in this culture were equally brutal towards males. Priests of the goddess had to renounce their masculinity for life in order to be worthy of her service—at least until Hadrian's law attempted to put a stop to the practice. The law failed, by the way, and Rome eventually permitted and then celebrated the practice. The 4th century A.D. Emperor Julian referred to the priestly ritual as a “holy and inexpressible harvest” (Oratio V, 168 D).

Why were priests of the goddess traditionally castrated? Simply put, she did not like men. Remember the killing and maiming of men by the Amazons mentioned above? Religious rituals in this culture were equally brutal towards males. Priests of the goddess had to renounce their masculinity for life in order to be worthy of her service – at least until Hadrian's law attempted to put a stop to the practice. The law failed, by the way, and Rome eventually permitted and then celebrated the practice. The 4th century A.D. Emperor Julian referred to the priestly ritual as a “holy and inexpressible harvest” (Oratio V, 168 D).

The worship of Artemis, the queen of heaven - one of the mother goddesses – required emasculation of men. In worship of her, males were to renounce their sexuality because it was viewed as earthly and wicked.



An illustration of Birthday Festivals of Artemis

An illustration of birthday festivals of Artemis. Notice she is shown with her many breasts, or eggs or bull testicles representing being a goddess of fertility and she is standing in a chariot pulled by serpents. Ephesus was certainly under her spell. The men castrating themselves or vowing to remain celibate. The women were remaining single. Their society and mindsets were all messed up. This is the kind of thing satan loves to do. He had totally messed up marriage and the natural order within the home with the husband being the head of the household.

1 Timothy 2:11-12 – Let the woman learn in silence with all subjection. But I suffer not a woman to teach, nor to usurp authority over the man, but to be in silence.

I covered this last week. The women of the Ephesus church were most likely bringing their pagan ways and false teachings into the church and Paul was instructing Timothy on how to get a handle on this and get it shut down. These women had been empowered above the men in the The Temple of Artemis/Diana. Artemis had female priestesses, staying single was encouraged, being wealthy was looked at as a symbol of favor etc. These women needed to learn the pure gospel message and in order to learn they needed to be silent and be in subjection to Timothy as their pastor and teacher.

Apostle Paul was merely stating that these troublesome women needed to quit trying to take over the service, quit trying to teach the false doctrine from their

previous pagan religion. They were to be silent and under subjection to Pastor Timothy's teaching. He never meant that they could not teach later on once they had learned the gospel message correctly.

Let's go just beyond that passage now:

1 Timothy 2:13-15 - For Adam was first formed, then Eve. And Adam was not deceived, but the woman being deceived was in the transgression. Notwithstanding she shall be saved in childbearing, if they continue in faith and charity and holiness with sobriety.

There is a Mandela Effect where it says charity, it should say love. Why did Paul start talking about Adam and Eve here?

In 2:13–15, Eve becomes Paul's example of how harmful false teachings are and how easily one can become deceived by such teachings. Women in the church were turning from truth to follow Satan (5:15), so Paul uses the most famous example of a woman being deceived to convey the gravity of what is at risk should these women continue having authority to spread their false teachings. Walter Kaiser argues that the reference to Adam and Eve being formed is not about creation order but about education (formation) since Adam was with God in the garden and received the command about not eating from the tree before Eve was formed.³⁴ This interpretation fits well with Paul emphasizing that it was Eve who was deceived, if deception is seen as the antithesis of education. Lack of education in the truth makes one prone to being deceived by false teachings.

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Just keep in mind that Paul points out that Adam was formed first. Eve knew about not eating from the tree of knowledge of good and evil because she told

satan they were not to eat of it. **(Genesis 3:1-7)** So we can't say she was not educated, she knew.

However, this reference to the creation account could also be a response to the abusive power being displayed by the women. Towner sees the creation reference as a direct response to the competing cultural influences.³⁵ Paul wants Timothy to remind these women that the woman, Eve, was formed second and was the one deceived. This is in no way to assert male dominance but to remind these women that God's intention is not for women to be dominant either. After all, Paul had already written to the Ephesian church explaining his model of marriage. It is not about either husband or wife dominating the other; they must submit to one another (Eph 5:21).

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Pastor Erustus was right when he mentioned a sort of women empowerment – man hater attitude going on. This reminds me of the feminist movement, in many ways it has pitted women and men against each other. I believe Paul was trying to establish equality and make a point about how damaging deception can be. Look what happened when Eve was deceived, the whole world fell into a sinful state. He was trying to guard against deception coming into the Ephesus church and the women seemed to be the biggest propagators of it.



(Briseis Painter [Public domain or Public domain], **via Wikimedia Commons**)
Artemis and Apollo.

It was popular belief that Artemis was the pre-eminent first born. Apollo, her twin, was subsequent.⁶ This birth order gave Artemis dominance over her male twin. She was the big sister in charge. Remember when Paul went to the example of Adam being formed first and then Eve, it seems he was dealing with this idea that since Artemis was first, she was dominant over Apollo. The women who came over from Artemis' cult and joined the church had the wrong idea about women being dominant over the men.

Paul was referencing the order of creation here to deal with the women who were claiming superiority over men because of the false teachings from the Artemis cult which had to do with her being over her brother, being first. The women who came out of the Artemis cult were most likely the ones claiming authority over the men in the church. So Paul takes them to Genesis to see that God created man first and then woman and furthermore, there were no other gods involved in creation. God is Sovereign.

Cybele mythology also taught that a **female** goddess was the **source of all life and purity**. It **attributed sin to** a collection of **male** deities. This may be why Paul also saw fit to remind Timothy that Adam was a source of life in Genesis, and that Eve also played a role in humanity's fall (c.f. 1 Timothy 2:13-14).

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Let's take a look at verse 15 again:

1 Timothy 2:15 - Notwithstanding she shall be saved in childbearing, if they continue in faith and charity (love) and holiness with sobriety.

Have you ever thought about this verse? I have. And I thought, what a whacky verse this is. The woman will be saved in childbearing if they continue in faith, love and holiness with modesty or propriety. I know at least 4 women personally who never had children and they are Christian women. If I took this on a straight read through then I would have to assume they are not saved because they never bore children. That's not right. That's not what Scripture teaches. All who call on the name of the Lord will be saved. **(Romans 10:13)**

In order to understand why Paul brought up childbearing let's take a look at what the cult of Artemis believed about childbirth. Paul was still dealing with the false teachings that many of the women in the Ephesus church believed.



This is the false goddess Leto, who was impregnated by Zeus and had twins, Athena and Apollo – pictured here. The story goes that Zeus' wife was mad about Leto and Zeus' affair so Leto was forced to give birth on a remote Island. She had Athena first and then she was in labor for supposedly 9 days with Apollo and Athena was assisting her in giving birth to him. So Athena was born first and then turned around and helped her mother give birth to her own brother. This is why she was supposed to be a savior to child bearing women, why she was worshipped as a midwife to them.

Artemis' mother, Leto, was a goddess of motherhood, childbirth and modesty. So you can see that Athena took on some of her mother's attributes, being a goddess of childbirth and midwives. In Ephesus she was celebrated as a midwife to animal and human births which earned her the title "great mother goddess."



Statues of children from the sanctuary of Artemis at Brauron, Attica, site of an ancient orphanage

Statues of children from the sanctuary of Artemis at Brauron, Attica, site of an ancient orphanage. Supposedly these statues were donated by thankful parents who believed that Artemis had helped them in childbirth to have a child.

There are three distinctions of the Artemis of Ephesus cult that are relevant to 1 Timothy 2:9-15: celibacy, first born status, and midwifery protection.

Artemis was celibate.



(Joseph Paelinck [Public domain], via Wikimedia Commons)

Artemis was a virgin, served by young, prestigious maids of rank and eunuchs from Ephesian aristocracy.⁴ Steven Baugh summarizes her persona neatly,

"The ancient Ephesians themselves presented Artemis Ephesia to the world as the traditional tomboy huntress who stood for chastity and the

rejection of marriage."⁵

Artemis was celibate, a virgin, served by young, prestigious maids of rank and eunuchs from Ephesian aristocracy. Steven Baugh summarizes her persona neatly. "The ancient Ephesians themselves presented Artemis Ephesia to the world as the traditional tomboy huntress who stood for chastity and the rejection of marriage.

Understanding this part will clear up why the widows in the church did not want to remarry, this cult made marriage unpopular. Apostle Paul stood against the teaching of abstaining from marriage and called it a false teaching. **(1 Timothy 4:2-3)** However, in 1 Corinthians 7:25-40 he encourages them to remain single. It seems that Paul was tailoring his message depending on the culture of the society and their religious beliefs of the time. The celibate teachings from the cult of Artemis probably bled over into the Ephesus church and Paul was trying to discourage that line of thinking and worship and aligning with the false religious beliefs of Artemis worshippers.

Artemis' worshippers believed that she would protect them during childbirth and see them through. She was regarded as the savior of laboring women.

Artemis was the goddess of childbirth.



Artemis was extremely popular throughout the ancient world because she promised to protect women in the most hazardous of all feminine endeavors. Childbirth.

Modern readers cannot appreciate the tension of becoming a mother in previous times. The joy of bearing children was tempered by the terrifying fact that childbirth complications lowered the life expectancy of ancient women to 25-30 years of age.

(By Vassil (Own work) [Public domain], via [Wikimedia Commons](#))

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Artemis – “savior”, as she was titled, was petitioned for safe deliverance. Women wore amulets to signal their devotion to Artemis. Mothers and fathers wrote letters to her temple asking for safety in child delivery. Women showed their gratitude to Artemis for a happy marriage or safe delivery by presenting the goddess with expensive garments. The statue of Artemis was draped in lavish vestments, and the women petitioned her wearing their own finery.

Genesis 3:15-16 - And I will put enmity between thee and the woman, and between thy seed and her seed; it (He) shall bruise (crush) thy head, and thou shalt bruise His heel. Unto the woman he said, I will greatly multiply thy sorrow

and thy conception; in sorrow thou shalt bring forth children; and thy desire *shall be* to thy husband, and he shall rule over thee.

Women having pain in childbirth goes all the way back to Genesis when Adam and Eve sinned. But in spite of their sin and God's judgement against it, God gave them hope, the promise of a Savior that would come.

Apostle Paul had a reason for saying that strange statement about women being saved in childbearing. It all circles back to the false goddess Artemis and what the women and all the people believed prior to becoming Christians. Apostle Paul is talking about Jesus being born of the virgin Mary. Jesus was born of a woman and became The Savior of the world when He went to that cross and gave His life so we could be saved. Through Mary's childbearing of Jesus, all women can be saved if they receive Jesus and live righteous obedient lives and for that matter, that is how every single person, man or woman can be saved.

Pastor Erustus encouraged me to do this teaching: Many women in ministry are hurting, it will be a big encouragement to them to serve God with joy and whole heartedly knowing that their ministry work is acceptable before God. Many, though born again, are still full of their traditional cultures & beliefs that oppress women. I encourage you to press on as a Pastor despite rejection and being despised. God sees all and will continue strengthening you. God bless you Pastor.

CLOSING

I am so thankful for the timing of The Holy Spirit to place this sermon on my heart and lead me to look a little deeper into what He had Apostle Paul write to Timothy. I have often thought to myself I would like to have a conversation with Apostle Paul in heaven as to why he did that. Now I don't have to. If you will wait on The Lord, He will clear up hard passages. If we had time to go and learn more about the culture of the churches in Scripture and how the pagans worshipped and what was going on at that time, we'd understand the things Paul wrote better. He was trying to get the early churches off on the right foot, to be firmly rooted and grounded on the good news of what Christ did for us and to give a good witness as Christians and to get the false teachings and paganism out of the churches. He was always establishing order within the church and correction.

“Focused on maintaining the church’s witness in Ephesus, Paul urges Timothy to root out false teaching and its effects on the Christian community by encouraging peaceful prayer, humility in relation to wealth, increased education in the truth, and by confronting abusive authority”, Eliza Stiles.



Should women be silent in church? We now know the answer is clearly no. Let’s quit beating the women up who have been called by God to minister within the churches. I hope this sermon has brought clarity to this matter and given all of you peace on this subject.

PRAYER

<http://www.threeheartchurch.org/index.php/sermons/sermon/167-women-in-the-church-part-one>

<http://www.threeheartchurch.org/index.php/sermons/sermon/168-women-in-the-church-part-two>

<http://www.threeheartchurch.org/index.php/sermons/sermon/169-women-in-the-church-part-three>

Tom Brown Ministries on Can Women be Pastors

http://www.tbm.org/can_women_be_pastors.htm

<https://greek.mythologyworldwide.com/artemis-and-the-concept-of-female-power-in-ancient-greece/>

<https://www.cbeinternational.org/resource/pauls-concern-for-ephesus-a-survey-of-1-timothy-28-15/>

<https://www.cbeinternational.org/resource/women-in-scripture-and-mission-junia-the-apostle/>

<https://kbonikowsky.com/2018/02/26/artemis-worship-instigated-the-restrictions-of-1-timothy-29-15/>

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<https://eaglesanddragonspublishing.com/tag/children/>

<https://www.bestephesustours.com/blog/temple-of-artemis-at-ephesus-facts-and-mother-goddess-cult.html>

<https://apostleswarning.wordpress.com/tag/artemis/>