

## What is meant by the woman being saved in childbearing?

In 1 Timothy 2:15, Paul states “Notwithstanding she shall be saved in childbearing”. Some have used this verse to claim that the only way women can be saved is if they get married and have children. With this teaching, some people have forced women to get married or condemned women who were not married.

1. What is the context of Paul's statement?  
1 Timothy **2:11-15**

Paul was discussing with Timothy, the proper role of women in leadership. He referenced the historical event that led to the fallen world that we now live in to explain his view of women in leadership positions.

2. What does the fall of mankind have to do with Paul's statement?  
**Genesis 3:1-6** **Genesis 3:12-17**

Paul sees the problem of the fall of mankind and the restoration of the relationship with God to be tied to the woman. The woman spoke to and listened to the words of Satan and believed what Satan said rather than what Adam communicated to her about God and His commands. Instead of submitting the relationship for Adam to assess and lead, she took upon herself the position of deciding what was true and what was false. While it is true that Adam was culpable in the crime of bringing sin into the world, the woman began the process by pushing aside the role of Adam as leader and guide so that she would be leader and guide.

In the account of the fall of mankind through the act of sin against God, God declares His judgment against both the man and the woman. He also declares a hope for the future. Notice that in verses 16-17, God identifies one role of women as bringing forth children. It is in this role that one of her seed, not Adam's seed, will bring about destruction of Satan. Paul's reference to childbearing is not that only women who have children can be saved but that it is through the process of childbearing that the Messiah Jesus will enter into the world and provide the path for salvation.

3. Does Paul see a different salvation program for women and men?  
Galatians **3:26-29** Ephesians **4:4-7**  
Romans **10:12-17**

There is no difference between men and women before God. Every human being is to be saved in the same way, through faith in Jesus Christ.

4. Why then does Paul make a big deal about women saved through childbearing?  
 Genesis **2:18-22** Numbers **30:3-12**  
 Romans 10:3 Ephesians **5:21-25**

The solution lies in the roles that God has given to men and to women since the beginning of time. Man was given the position of head or leader (not boss, not king) and the woman was given the position of compatible helper. Although the fall was caused by Adam not only eating the fruit but also abdicating his position as leader, the restoration came about through the woman bearing seed.