

Does 1 Timothy 2:12 Really Say Women Can't Teach in Church?

There's a little word in the Greek in 1 Timothy 2:12 that makes all the difference. That word is *oude*.

It appears there are two prohibitions for women in 1 Timothy 2:12. The first is teaching; the second, assuming or usurping authority. But they are separated by this little word *oude*.

Again, I'm indebted to Philip Payne's book, *Man and Woman, One in Christ* for this understanding. Philip Payne studied the Bible in its original languages from his youth. His father was a Bible scholar who every day, after breakfast and dinner gave him a fresh translation of a chapter from either the Greek New Testament or the Hebrew Old Testament. Spirited discussions would ensue.

In 1973, his assumptions about male headship were profoundly challenged when a scholar stated that "no passage of