

Class 5a

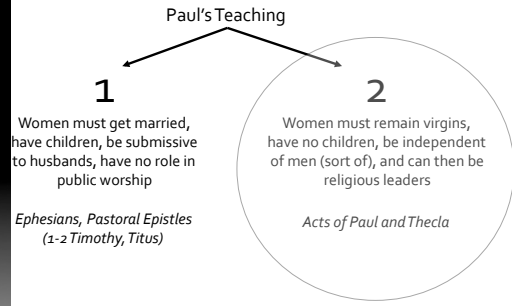
**THE OTHER LEGACY OF PAUL:
THE UNMARRIED WOMAN**

Outline

- Taking Paul two ways
 - Pro-marriage
 - Pro-celibacy (anti-marriage, or at least anti-sex)
- The Pro-celibacy track
 - *Acts of Paul and Thecla*
 - Research clusters: Seleucia
- How is celibacy emphasized in the story, and why?

**TAKING PAUL TWO WAYS:
THE PRO-CELIBACY TRACK**

Making Paul Two Ways Two Opposite Traditions in the Early Church



The Pro-Celibacy Track *Acts of Paul and Thecla*

- Date 160–210 CE
- Place South-central Asia Minor/Turkey
- Author Unknown
(Tertullian will say it was a heretical priest)
- Audience Pilgrims to Thecla's shrine

**HOW IS CELIBACY EMPHASIZED,
AND WHY?**

The Pro-Celibacy Track

Acts of Paul and Thecla

1. How is celibacy emphasized?
2. Does this emphasis maintain Paul's teachings or diverge from them, or both?
3. How is Thecla's virginity eroticized?
4. WHY is Thecla's virginity eroticized? Isn't it a contradiction to promote one thing through its opposite?
