

Sermon Notes 6/5/22

“Women, Wisdom, and Worship”

How should we conduct ourselves in church?

1. Men can pray without _____ or dissension.

1 Timothy 2:8

Ephesians 4:31-32

2. Women can adorn themselves with _____.

1 Timothy 2:9-10

1 Peter 3:3-4

3. We can accept God’s _____ for His church.

1 Timothy 2:11-14

4. Women can be leaders and _____.

1 Timothy 2:15

2 Timothy 1:5

Titus 2:3-5



This is a 1st century advertisement for the Temple of Artemis in Ephesus (Acts 19:34). In the top left corner is a purse full of coins, telling men what to bring. The woman in the lower right is a temple prostitute, urging men to follow her to the temple.

Life Group Discussion Questions

Week 6: June 5-12

1 Timothy 2:8-15

In chapters 2 and 3 of 1 Timothy, Paul writes about the church assembly and the organization of church leadership. Paul put prayer at the top of the list of things we need to do as a church (1 Tim. 2:1-7). In verses 8-15 of chapter 2, Paul talks about the roles and responsibilities of men and women in church. Gender roles and feminism are hotly debated issues in our culture. However, the Bible is the inspired and authoritative word of God. We must follow God's word, regardless of how unpopular it may be in the culture of the world.

Read 1 Timothy 2:8-15

1. What did Paul want men everywhere to do? (2:8)
2. What does it mean to pray "lifting up holy hands"? (2:8)

C. Michael Moss writes,

Paul's primary concern in the text is not the posture one assumes in prayer but the inner attitude and lifestyle of the one praying. "Holy hands" is a call for deeds that demonstrate the pure life. The closing words of this admonition, "without anger or disputing," refer to the kind of soiling hands may have.¹

3. Why is it important to pray without wrath or dissension? (2:8)

Paul is not saying that only men should pray in church. He is simply pointing out something men need to focus on when they pray together. Women are typically more social and relational than men. Men often struggle with wrath and dissension more so than women.

Robert Yarbrough observes,

Men ancient and modern often relish disagreement. They love to be right and will go to great lengths to vindicate themselves

¹ C. Michael Moss, *The College Press NIV Commentary: 1, 2 Timothy and Titus* (Joplin, MO: College Press, 1995), 55.

and disparage real or perceived foes. Road-rage incidents, almost always involving men, offer contemporary illustrations.²

4. What did Paul say about the way Christian women should adorn themselves in verse 9?

5. According to verse 10, what should Christian women focus on more than their outward appearance? (See also 1 Peter 3:3-4)

William Mounce notes,

The problem being discussed in vv 8-10 is disruption in the church. The men are acting in anger, even during times of prayer; the women are dressing immodestly and putting too much emphasis on external appearances while neglecting the more significant aspects of Christian life such as godly behavior.³

6. What does verse 11 say about the attitude women must have when they are being taught?

Jack Cottrell explains,

The word silence does not imply non-speaking or absence of sound, but rather a quiet demeanor expected of all Christians (as the use of the same word in verse 2 shows). The emphasis in verse 11 on quiet, submissive learning suggests that the real problem with the Ephesian women was their aggressive and contentious approach to learning, not their lack of learning. This is supported by the fact that the instruction to “remain quiet” is repeated in verse 12.⁴

7. What are women not permitted to do in verse 12?

² Robert W. Yarbrough, *The Letters to Timothy and Titus* (Grand Rapids, MI: Eerdmans, 2018), 164.

³ William Mounce, *Word Biblical Commentary: Pastoral Epistles* (Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan Academic, 2016), 103.

⁴ Jack Cottrell, *The Gender Roles Debate* (Mason, OH: Christian Restoration Association, 2020), 74.

Some have claimed that *authenteo*, the Greek word for “authority” in verse 12, really means abusive authority. However, most words have more than one possible meaning. While this word can be used to refer to murder, that definition does not fit the context of 2 Timothy 2. And in Greek literature whenever *authenteo* is used to refer to authority it is never abusive authority.⁵

8. What reason did Paul give for not allowing women to teach or have authority over men in verse 13?

9. What reason did Paul give for not allowing women to teach or have authority over men in verse 14?

10. In what way did Paul say that women would be “saved”? (2:15)

Andreas Köstenberger notes,

The word “saved” is better rendered “preserved” in light of Paul’s concern that believers be kept safe from the devil and the false teachers (cf. 5:15). In this vein Timothy will help preserve his listeners if he pays close attention to his life and teaching (4:16).⁶

11. How can we guard against wrath and dissension in our times of worship and prayer?

12. What helps you to pray with the right attitude?

13. What does it mean to dress modestly?

14. How should we understand and apply what the Bible says about gender roles in the church today?

15. How can you focus your attention on Christian service and worship of God over outward appearance?

⁵ Cottrell, 84-87.

⁶ Andreas Köstenberger, *1-2 Timothy and Titus: Evangelical Biblical Theology Commentary* (Bellingham, WA: Lexham Press, 2021), 118.