



What to do with 1 Timothy 2 1 Timothy 2:8-15

We should seek to learn not only the WHAT but the WHY of these instructions.

Verses 11-12:

Text Message:

- The **WHAT** is simple (Verse 12), but applying the **WHAT** without the **WHY** leads to picking and choosing(!):

Do men always pray with hands lifted in

prayer? Why not?

Do we pay attention to our hair, jewelry, or clothing? Why?

Are the verses limiting women permanent or preparatory?

Are the verses limiting women timeless or timely?

Do we really believe women are saved by having babies?

- Note the difference the **WHY** makes:
Pious Jews lifted hands in prayer to bless God **and others**.
Wealthy women were using their status to dominate others.
In Ephesus, the goddess Artemis was protector in childbirth.
- Some see a **WHY** in verses 13-14 (“order of creation”).
- However, this must be imposed upon the creation texts and here (Genesis 1:28, Note: Genesis 3:16 is a result of sin!).
- These verses illustrate what was happening in Ephesus among some [wealthy] women! Like Eve, they were deceived, being led

astray, and in danger of leading others astray!

We should seek to learn from the bigger picture (context) of these instructions.

Text Message:

- The bigger context was that false teaching was the major problem in Ephesus and women were being led astray by teaching which elevated women over men.
- Artemis was **the** goddess in Ephesus, and in Acts 19 we get a picture of the devotion the city had to her:
“... for about two hours they all cried out with one voice, “Great is Artemis of the Ephesians!”
Verse 34
- The Apostle Paul foretold that false teaching would come to Ephesus in Acts 20:
I know that after my departure fierce wolves will come in among you, not sparing the flock; and from among your own selves will arise men speaking twisted things, to draw away the

disciples after them. Verses 29-30

- Paul's letters to Timothy are filled with references to false teachers, false teaching, and their effect on some women (See especially 2 Timothy 3:5-7).
- Paul's pastoral advice and the only command in this text: Verse 11, which was the commended posture of male disciples who were to learn for the purpose of teaching!
- In other words, Verse 12 is not timeless but timely [to what was happening in Ephesus] and preparatory not permanent.

We should seek to learn the application for the church today in these instructions.

Text Message:

- As to teaching: Preparation is a must for men and women!
- As to the model for having and exercising authority:

- **Not Genesis 3-Malachi:** Men over women (the curse of sin).
Not Ephesian false teaching: Women over men.
BUT redemption in Christ: No one is to have a dominating authority (Verse 12: αυθεντειν, *authentein*) over another, but we are to serve one another in love (Matthew 10:25-27).

Rev. Dr. Timothy W. Fisher, Walkersville Community Church