

Message #8**I Timothy 2:9-15**

Women are an important part of the program of God and they are to be an important part of the church of God. But if the church of God is to be a pillar and support of the truth of God, women are to function in the way God wants and God's leadership is to see that God's church functions God's way.

THE CHURCH IS TO BE THE PILLAR AND SUPPORT OF THE TRUTH OF GOD AND WOMEN IN THE CHURCH ARE TO FULFILL THEIR RESPONSIBILITIES IN MAKING IT BECOME THIS BY MAINTAINING PROPER ATTITUDES AND ROLES IN THE CHURCH.

The word "likewise" means in the same manner in which I have advised men how to pray and worship and live; now I want to address the subject of women and their worship. When it comes to the subject of women in the church, there are two extremes: one extreme says let them do anything. Another extreme says don't let them do anything. Both extremes are wrong!

CHALLENGE #1 – Women help make the church become a pillar and support of the truth of God by maintaining proper attire. **2:9-10**

What we will immediately observe in this text and in a similar context in I Peter 3:3-5, is that proper attire has little to do with "outer adornment," but has everything to do with "inner adornment."

Fact #1 - Proper attire is modest attire. **2:9a**

These clothing terms in the original have more to do with attitudes than with actual clothing. In fact, the words "proper clothing" refers to an orderly quietness and steadfastness (Smith, p. 239). In the context of clothing, it refers to clothing that is not loud, but quietly reflects the dignity of a woman of God.

The word "modestly" is one that means clothing should be selected for worship with a sense of shame. In other words, when a woman considers what she is going to wear to the worship service, she should carefully decide whether or not her wearing this would be shameful.

Fact #2 - Proper attire is discreet attire. **2:9b**

That word "discreet" is one that means a woman is to use good, sane and sound thinking when selecting the clothes she wears to church to worship God. God wants His women to think about what they are wearing to His church. They are to give careful thought to the clothes they select. There should be an effort to make oneself as lovely as possible in a modest and discreet sense.

Fact #3 - Improper attire is rich attire. **2:9c**

Many commentators point out from this context the selection of clothing is not as much a sexual issue as it is a financial issue. Nice hair, nice jewelry and nice clothing is not wrong in and of itself; however, it is wrong for a woman to come to church in order to flaunt it in front of others.

Fact #4 - Proper attire is good works attire. **2:10**

Proper attire, from God's perspective, is not making a claim to godliness by clothing, but by good works. What really should stand out about a woman of God is not her external clothing, but her external works.

CHALLENGE #2 – Women are to help the church become a pillar and support of the truth of God by maintaining a proper aptitude. **2:11**

Notice very carefully a woman is to come to church to learn! She is to come to church so she can “receive instruction.” In fact, the verb is an imperative—the woman is commanded to go to church to learn. For a woman of God who is really going someplace in the sight of God, church will never be just a social center or an entertainment center; it is a learning center. It is the place where the woman comes to learn about God.

Quality #1 - A woman is to learn with a quiet spirit. **2:11a**

The word “quiet” means a woman should come to listen and learn in a still and silent spirit. The word “quiet” used here and in **verse 12** does not mean total silence or no talking; it means a quieted down, not unruly spirit (Acts 22:2; II Thess. 3:12).

Quality #2 - A woman is to learn with a submissive spirit. **2:11c**

The word “submissiveness” is one that means a woman is to listen to the Word of God by willingly placing herself under and recognizing the God-ordained rank and authority structure which places man above her in rank. She is to recognize the authority in God's church of men teachers, men elders, and men deacons. She is to recognize the authority of her own husband.

CHALLENGE #3 – Women are to help the church become a pillar and support of the truth of God by maintaining proper authority. **2:12-15**

Now **verse 12** is a verse that is in the context of teaching and preaching, and in the context of church leadership. Women are not to teach men in the church and they are not to be in authority over men in the church.

Reason #1 - Man was first created. **2:13**

This means more than just chronology of time; this is chronology of rank. A woman was made after man in order to help man, not to dominate man.

Reason #2 - Woman was first deceived. **2:14**

The sequential order was that Eve first fell and then Adam and that is why God will not permit a woman to have first rank over a man. A woman can, generally speaking, be demonically deceived more easily than a man and therefore, God does not want her teaching or in positions of authority. This was clearly the problem in the church of Thyatira (Rev. 2:20, 24) and it can be a threat to any church.

As we near the end, seducing demonic spirits will tamper with doctrine and truth (I Tim. 4:1). It is imperative that men of God who are grounded in the Word of God be the teachers. Putting a woman in this position sets up the possibility of an entire church being deceived.

Reason #3 - Woman will be preserved. **2:15**

1) The physical interpretation.

This interpretation says the woman will be preserved physically through the dangerous and painful process of childbirth if she continues in the faith and maintains these attitudes. The problem with this is that many godless women and many unsubmitive women have babies and deliver them safely, and many godly women have not been kept safe in childbirth.

2) The Christological interpretation.

This interpretation says that the woman will be saved by the fact that a woman produced Jesus Christ, who is the Savior. The problem with this is that Christ's coming as Savior was not contingent upon the faithfulness of any woman. Plus, the argument makes no sense to the context.

3) The spiritual salvation interpretation.

This means if a woman submits, she will be spiritually saved. The problem is salvation is by faith in Jesus Christ, not by submitting to men.

4) The sovereign purpose interpretation.

This interpretation suggests that if a woman bears children and quietly submits to male leadership in the church, she will perfectly fulfill her role that God designed for her and will be blessed. She will preserve her God-ordained purpose of existence (I Tim. 5:14).

5) The personal influence interpretation.

This interpretation suggests that if a woman faithfully obeys the Word of God, her godly influence will be preserved in her children. If she continues in faith and love and sanctity with self-restraint to set herself apart as a woman of God who does not usurp God-ordained authority, God will preserve her impact through her children.

The church needs men of God and the church needs women of God. God has called both into His family. The more we are faithfully following His Word, the more our church and our lives become a pillar and support of the truth.