

I Timothy 2:9-15

In I Tim. 2:9-15 we continue with the roles and responsibilities of members in the local church.

In verses 1-8 we have seen that men are to be engaged in various kinds of praying for all men. And we have seen that there are certain essentials for men to be prepared to pray. They must have a right relationship with God and a right relationship with others.

Now we come to the role and responsibilities of women in the public assembly of a local church. Believing women are to give evidence of their submission in a certain number of ways.

V. - 9,10 Paul states that women in the public assembly should be dressed in modest apparel.

The word "modest" means decent and orderly. It comes from the word kosmos which means an orderly arrangement.

Notice this orderly adorning of clothes is to be based upon two things: shamefacedness and sobriety.

"shamefacedness" - means avoiding anything which would cause shame or reproach upon one's Christian character.

Women with Godly character should refuse to go beyond the bounds of what would jeopardize their testimony and raise questions about their motives for meeting.

"sobriety" - means to be sober-minded and exercise good sense. It describes an inner self-control concerning one's natural inclinations. What woman in her right mind would want others to think of her as being fast and loose or a harlot?

Women have a propensity to want men to look at them and find them attractive. When women wear sensual and alluring clothes to church services they are not only jeopardizing their Christian character they are not exercising good judgment because they should be there to worship the Lord not to gain the attention and or lust of men.

Notice what a woman wears makes a statement to others. The way some dress says "look at me and lust!"

Women should realize that they can sin in causing men to sin when they look upon them and lust. For these reasons when women dress for public worship they should ask, "will the way I'm dressed attract attention to me instead of the Lord and will it cause men to lust?"

In verses 9 and 10 Paul gives a contrast when it comes to what women wear. If they dress modestly with shamefacedness and sobriety they should not wear expensive clothes and jewelry and hair styles that call attention to outward beauty but to the beauty of a godly life with good works.

This is the beauty Dorcas (Acts 9:36), Lydia and Priscilla displayed. As well as many others whom Paul greeted in Romans 16.

V. - 11 Paul stated that the women were to learn in silence in the public assembly. They were not to let their newfound freedom in Christ cause disturbances but to show their subjection by keeping quiet.

For this reason women are not to lead in prayer in public assemblies nor be outspoken about the affairs of a church. To do so is to show a lack of submission to what God has ordained for them.

V. - 12 It is clear from this verse that women are not to teach men or usurp authority over men in the public assembly.

This doesn't mean that women shouldn't teach at all. They are to teach other women and children as well (Titus 2:3,4). Timothy was taught at home by his mother and grandmother (II Tim. 1:5;3:15).

It does rule out women teaching men in Sunday School classes, leading choirs with men, and taking leadership roles over men.

V. - 13,14 - Paul gives two arguments why men should be the spiritual leaders in the church and the women were to show submission through silence.

He said God created Adam first and intended him to have authority. The fact that Eve was created second argues for her to be in submission to her husband.

Secondly Paul argues that the woman was deceived and this led to transgression and the entrance of sin into the human race. According to God's order Eve should have gone to Adam about the matter but she acted independently and was deceived.

V. - 15 This is not suggesting that women are saved spiritually through child-bearing.

It is saying, notwithstanding the fact that death came upon men because of the woman's deception, she would be spared death and have God's blessings if she would live a godly life along with her husband.