

ORDER IN THE CHURCH

1 TIMOTHY 2:8-15

Text:

Introduction:

The context of 1Timothy 2:8-15 is public worship. In verses 1-7 Paul had given a challenge to prayer. Now, he gives some behavioral instructions, for the sake of order, to men and women for behavior during the church services. He deals also with the divine authority established in the Church.

1. ACTION (VS 8)

1 Tim. 2:8

I will therefore that men pray every where, lifting up holy hands, without wrath and doubting.

A. When church is gathered, men should be praying.

1. The word holy means to be pure and unpolluted.

B. This prayer should be without wrath.

James 1:20

For the wrath of man worketh not the righteousness of God.

C. This prayer is to be without doubting.

1. The word doubting here means "disputations, reasonings, skeptical questions or criticisms."

2. ADORNMENT (VS 9)

1 Tim. 2:9

In like manner also, that women adorn themselves in modest apparel, with shamefacedness and sobriety; not with broided hair, or gold, or pearls, or costly array;

A. Avoid extremes

"Shamefacedness" means modest, "the avoiding of extremes".

The Christian woman is not to go to extremes of wearing sensual or suggestive clothes. Nor is she to go the extreme of trying to look artificially glamorous. Nor is she to go to the extreme of purposely trying to look drab or dull.

Sobriety simply means to have good sense. Thus the Christian woman is to dress sensibly.

This next phrase not with broided hair, or gold or pearls, or costly array: is not outlawing hair-styles, or jewelry or expensive clothes. He is simply saying that the effort a woman makes should not be towards these things.

3. ATTITUDE (VS 11)

These next verses will not throw you if you understand the context.

The context is not the superiority of men and the inferiority of women. Galatians 3:27-28

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For as many of you as have been baptized into Christ have put on Christ. [28] There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither bond nor free, there is neither male nor female: for ye are all one in Christ Jesus.

The context of this passage is order. There are certain things God prescribes for the sake of order.

The woman is to learn quietly. She is not to cause a "stir". She is not to be leaning over, whispering, asking questions of her husband. She is not be leaning over, talking, taking issue with what the preacher is saying. When participation is asked for by the speaker in a public meeting, I feel that the ladies have just as much right to participate as the men.

4. AUTHORITY (vs 12-14)

1 Tim. 2:12-14

But I suffer not a woman to teach, nor to usurp authority over the man, but to be in silence. [13] For Adam was first formed, then Eve. [14] And Adam was not deceived, but the woman being deceived was in the transgression.

Ladies are not to teach men in the public meetings of the church. Remember public meetings are the context.

Should women teach?

Ladies can teach children fellow ladies certain practical truths better than any man can. Titus 2:3-5

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The aged women likewise, that they be in behaviour as becometh holiness, not false accusers, not given to much wine, teachers of good things; [4] That they may teach the young women to be sober, to love their husbands, to love their children, [5] To be discreet, chaste, keepers at home, good, obedient to their own husbands, that the word of God be not blasphemed.

We have two reasons for the order that God has established.

First, there is the reason of order. Man was formed before woman. Therefore, woman is to naturally follow man's leadership.

Second, Eve was fooled by Satan. Adam was not, but sinned in the garden anyway.

By taking leadership over the man, she ate first and then gave to her husband to eat."

5. ADVANTAGE (VS 15)

1 Tim. 2:15

Notwithstanding she shall be saved in childbearing, if they continue in faith and charity and holiness with sobriety.

This is a very difficult verse with many possible interpretations.

I do not believe that Paul is talking about salvation of the soul here.

But I do believe he is telling us something about the results of a woman's ministry at home.

If a woman accepts her role in the church and leads a life of faith, love, holiness, and self-restraint, she will raise godly children. There is no greater privilege in the

whole world than to bring up the next generation to the glory of God.