

WOMEN WHO WORSHIP APPROPRIATELY

1 Timothy 2:9-15

In aftermath of **Hurricane Andrew**, news interview with man in front of row of destroyed houses. His house stood in the middle, suffering only minor damage. How did his house escape? *"I built this house according to building code. When the code called for 2x6 roof trusses, I used 2x6 trusses. I was told a house built according to code could withstand a hurricane. I did and it did!"*

1 Tim tells us how to build God's house according to code!

If we want a church to survive hurricanes that attack churches and destroy God's people, we must *build according to code*.

One of greatest sermons ever preached:

Adrian Rogers, preaching on **Micaiah**, prophet sent to Ahab.

400 prophets affirm Ahab's plan.

They urge Micaiah to go along with what everybody else says.

Micaiah responds: ***"I can only say what the Lord tells me"***

Rogers urges people who speak for God to have courage to tell the truth—to say what God says, whether people like it or not.

5 affirmations concerning truth modern people don't like to hear:

1. Better to be divided by truth than united by error.
2. Better to speak truth that hurts, and later heals;
than to speak falsehood that comforts, and later kills.
3. Better to be hated for telling truth than loved for telling a lie.
4. Better to stand alone for truth than be loved by the multitude.
5. Better to *ultimately* succeed with *truth*
than to *temporarily* succeed with a *lie*.

Like Micaiah's message, this passage isn't popular.

So *unpopular* scholars come up with escape routes to tell us why Paul doesn't mean what he says.

Some discredit him as a cranky old single guy with a thing against women, whose views shouldn't be taken seriously.

Kent Hughes cites a study by Bob Yarbrough, Professor of NT at Trinity Evangelical Divinity School: Traditional view of passage unquestioned until 1969. Progressive interpretation's promotion following feminist movement of 60s is "indebted significantly ... to the prevailing social climate rather than to the Biblical text."

Harold O.J. Brown: "When ... convictions undergo dramatic alteration, though nothing new has been discovered and the only thing that has changed is the spirit of the age, it's difficult to avoid the conclusion that the spirit had an important role in the shift."

We've taken stand: **God's Word is our *final* authority.**

If I don't *like* what God says, that's too bad.

God's word tells us what to do, NOT the other way around.

Views that allow us to explain away passages we don't like make man final authority, *not* God.

We're called to discover what God says, then DO it.

We're called to proclaim what *God* says,

NOT to reaffirm whatever view is popular at the moment.

If **today** we can throw out what Scripture says about *women* because we don't like God's opinion,

tomorrow we can throw out what it says about *homosexuality*,

some day we'll throw out what it says about *killing old people*.

Either ***God's Word is our final authority,***

or we're subject to whims of the moment.

As for me and my house—and our church—***we'll take our stand on God's Word, whether people like what we say or not!***

Last thing people need is one more human opinion!

We're called to proclaim the truth! God's Word is truth.

Disclaimer: Bible teachers often differ on what God's Word *means*.

It isn't *my interpretation* that's our final authority, it's God's Word!

If you grapple with text, and come to a different conclusion, you

have my permission to disagree with me. *I'm not the authority;*

God's Word is our authority. What GOD says goes!

Be sure it's me you disagree with, *not God*.

Be sure you're not trying to *explain away* what God says.

[What God says . . .] **CONCERNING WORSHIP 2:1-15**

ROLE OF PRAYER 2:1-8 Prayer has top priority.

Pray for everyone, especially rulers, so we'll be free to live as God wants us to; so others will hear truth and be saved.

When we pray, we're to come with clean hands & united hearts.

ROLE OF WOMEN 2:9-15 ... in corporate life of the church

Parallel between v. 8 and v. 9.

"Therefore, I want . . . " at beginning of v. 8 introduces 8 & 9.

v. 8 tells what Paul wants men to do

because of what Christ has done for us

"Men" identifies to whom addressed: MALES.

v. 9 tells what Paul wants WOMEN to do.

In v. 8, Paul deals with men praying *in assembly*.

In v. 9, Paul deals with women *in assembly*.

APPROPRIATE DRESS 2:9-10 [for godly women]

People make a statement by the way they dress.

People who dress sloppily, are often careless how they live.

Certain hairstyles reflect a rebellious attitude.

Sexually explicit clothing says something about our values.

Women in Paul's day were making statement by their dress. Paul's concern isn't with *fashions* themselves. Paul's concern is with statement women make by the way they dress.

Immodest dress makes a statement about character.

Flashy, extravagant dress draws attention to oneself;

Makes a statement about values and attitudes.

Godly women make *their* statement by paying more attention to what the inside looks like, than to external appearance.

Attention earned by appropriate lifestyle, NOT by clothes

Proper dress 2:9a *"I want women to dress modestly, with decency and propriety, . . ."*

Improper dress 2:9b *" . . . not with braided hair, or gold or pearls, or expensive clothes, . . ."*

Tozer: If Paul's dealing with how to dress, you can't braid your hair, wear gold or fine dresses. That's NOT Paul's point.

He's saying *you can't buy true attractiveness*. "True attractiveness is not outward but inward.... Radiance which really shines forth in beauty is of the heart and spirit and not of the body!"

Ironside: 1 Pet 3, focus on *fashions* literally says women shouldn't wear clothes at all! "A woman might have her hair put up ever so beautifully; be arrayed in the loveliest, costliest gown; and decorated with the most beautiful ornaments but have a hard, cold, unforgiving, vain, unchristian spirit. Her outward adornment would count for nothing. The real adornment is that which springs from a heart in subjection to the Holy Spirit of God."

Our reputation shouldn't be based on fancy hairdos.

Our reputation shouldn't be based on lavish jewelry.

Our reputation shouldn't be based on extravagant clothes.

Appropriate adornments 2:10 *"... but with good deeds, appropriate for women who profess [godliness] to worship God."*

Reputation of godly women should be based on *good deeds*
–actions appropriate for godly women.

God made *everything* to draw attention to Himself

Adorn yourself with what draws attention to Him, *NOT* to us.

Women should dress modestly, decently, appropriately.

1 Pet 3:3-4:

"Your beauty should not come from outward adornment, such as braided hair, wearing gold jewelry and fine clothes. Instead, it should be that of your inner self, the unfading beauty of a gentle and quiet spirit, which is of great worth in God's sight."

2:10 Appropriate adornment for godly women is good deeds,
NOT flashy, "show-off" fashion styles.

*Godly women should help people focus on God,
NOT on their flashy clothes!*

[2nd issue for women: *Appropriate* role for women in church]

APPROPRIATE ACTIVITY 2:11-15

Description of her activity 2:11-12 *"A woman should learn in quietness and full submission. I do not permit a woman to teach nor to have authority over a man; she must remain quiet."*

She should learn in quiet and submission 2:11

"Quiet" doesn't *necessarily* = total silence, *never* speaking
In some contexts refers to calm—not out of control.

Acts 22:2, Paul speaks Aramaic, crowd *became quiet*

2 Thess. 3:12, Paul urges busy bodies to “*settle down*” or “*quiet down*” and go to work.

1 Tim 2:2 Pray for rulers, so we may live a “*quiet*” life.

There *is* a word for quiet which refers to silence.

Paul *does* use that word with women in 1 Cor. 14.

What Paul is calling for is not all that different from appropriate activity for *men* in God’s house.

We’re *all* here to *listen* to what God has to say to us.

He’s the *final* authority;

we come to hear what HE wants to tell us.

When I see fighting spirit, that prefers to argue about what God says than do it, man or woman, I worry.

God hasn’t called us to argue.

He’s called us *ALL* to a peaceful, quiet spirit.

Exhortation to godly women:

Establish reputation for quiet, submissive spirit. **1 Pet. 3**
*Wives... be submissive to your husbands...³ **Your beauty** should not come from outward adornment...⁴ Instead, it should be that of your inner self, **the unfading beauty of a gentle and quiet spirit**, which is of great worth in God’s sight. For this is the way **holy women of the past who put their hope in God used to make themselves beautiful by being submissive to their husbands...***

That’s *NOT* how modern world tells women to act.

Quiet, submissive spirit is becoming on a godly woman!

Both Paul and Peter agree. GOD affirms it in His Word!

She should NOT lead men 2:12 *“I do not permit a woman to teach nor to have authority over a man; she must remain quiet”*

Passage is clear.

The question is not over what this passage says.

Some people just write it off.

Liberal scholars have no problem with it.

They say up front: "This is what writer thinks!

He's wrong but that's his opinion."

Conservative scholars have to discount it somehow.

Some say Paul was sexist but we know better.

Some apply it to a local cultural situation.

But it's clear what Paul is saying here:

"I do not permit a woman to teach nor to have authority over a man; she must remain quiet"

There *is* some question about what it *means*.

Though even that *looks* clear.

There *is* question about *scope*. *How far do we take this?*

It applies to **church worship services** and **elders**.

Women sometimes taught men in *private*.

e.g., Priscilla taught Apollos.

Other examples: women teach men outside church.

But this passage deals with the assembly.

Does it apply to Sunday School? They didn't have S.S!

Some feel principle applies; some feel it doesn't.

Does it apply to other leadership? Which positions?

It does NOT apply to a woman's role in the work place, or in government. That's not Paul's concern.

Principle is established in non-debatable statement.

We can agree to disagree in love on how to apply it.

Reasons for her activity 2:13-15 Why?

It's NOT because of their culture!

Paul gives **two reasons**:

BOTH are **theological**. *BOTH* based on OT.

No local cultural motivation is mentioned.

In both passages, Paul affirms: *"this is normative practice."*

It's practiced *"in all congregations where saints gather!"*

Paul doesn't just do this in Corinth and in Ephesus.

He shows these two he insists on this everywhere

It's *not* a special rule to single them out!

[So what are Paul's two reasons?]

It's because of God's priority in creation 2:13

"For Adam was formed first, then Eve."

Men received priority in creation. Men were created first.

1 Cor. 11:8-9 *"Man did not **come from** woman, but woman from man; neither was man created **for** woman, but woman for man."*

It isn't based on *superiority*.

Scripture *never* says *"man is better."*

God eliminated distinction between men and women

Paul says: Men and women, like Jews and Greeks, slaves and free, are all equal in God's sight.

Though equal, differences exist *in function* in church.

All aren't called as apostles, or preachers/teachers.

It's based on *priority*. That's God's plan.

God made man first. He made woman *for* man.

People today don't like that.

God never asked us to vote on it!

He told us to believe it! And DO what HE says!

It's because of her deception in sinning 2:14-15

“Adam wasn’t the one deceived; the woman was deceived and became a sinner. ¹⁵But women will be saved through childbearing –if they continue in faith, love and holiness with propriety.”

Woman was deceived and violated God’s requirement.

She was deceived and became a law breaker—a sinner.

Focus NOT: “women are sinners;” it’s “*Eve was deceived.*”

Paul *never* says women are more gullible than men.

Some men outdo any woman in that department.

EVE deceived; represents women who descend from her.

That’s why *all* women have pain in childbirth.

That’s why *all* women are to be subject to their husbands.

That’s why women aren’t to teach

or have authority over men in church.

However, women are NOT lost forever.

There *is* judgment on women for Eve’s deception.

Scripture mentions at least **two consequences** for women:

Submission to men Pain in childbirth

You might assume that since woman is under judgment, maybe women, like Satan, could never turn back.

Paul assures us that’s not so.

After the childbirth, when period of human history affected by pain in childbirth is over, there *is* hope.

Those characterized by faith, love, holiness, along with discernment of God’s perspective—who show by fruit they’re born to new life by trusting Christ—*will be saved.*

There’s salvation, after time of enduring consequences of sin –*as there is for man! She’s no less savable!*

But consequences of sin are real today for women *and* men.

Men still struggle with work that isn't always productive.
 Men still sweat for privilege of harvesting weeds/thorns!
 People still struggle with languages they can't understand.
 People still struggle with reality of death.
 People are still afraid of snakes.
 Snakes still crawl on their bellies and eat dust.
 Women still have pain in childbirth.
Women are still subject to authority of men!

—whether we like it or not! It's consequence of the fall.
 BUT, *After* that judgment, which involves pain in childbirth,
 women *will* be saved, same as men,
 if they evidence faith in the Lord.

HOW DO GODLY WOMEN WORSHIP APPROPRIATELY?

By dressing up from the inside out, attracting people to your Savior by your good deeds.

By resisting temptation to draw attention to self.

By quietly submitting

to those God places in authority over you,

listening to what God says to you through them.

God has *not* called women to run church,

but to *do good deeds* and listen to His voice.

As you're faithful, doing what God calls *you* to do, you teach other women & children, model godliness to all who watch

By using your gifts in sphere where God calls you.

80 % of humanity is available as audience in the church.

Other 20 % is available for private instruction.

**Don't let Satan focus your attention
on what God *hasn't* called you to do!**

That's how he deceived Eve! That's his favorite strategy!

Eve should have focused on fruit God *had* given her.

He got Eve to focus on one fruit God said wasn't for her.

Don't let him get *you* that way! *Don't fall for it!*

Enjoy the gifts and calling God HAS given you.

Ironsides: What a great testimony to the world God has designed!

Men who demonstrate their dependence on God by praying continually to Him with pure hands and united hearts.

Women: "God puts before us the consistent Christian woman—and what a testimony for God is such a woman in the world today! I do not know of anyone whose influence counts more than that of a godly woman. It counts with her husband, the children, and with all those with whom she has to do."