

Men And Women

1 Timothy 2:8-15

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“I desire then that in every place the men should pray, lifting holy hands without anger or quarreling; likewise also that women should adorn themselves in respectable apparel, with modesty and self-control, not with braided hair and gold or pearls or costly attire, but with what is proper for women who profess godliness--with good works.”

(1 Timothy 2:8-10, ESV)

Introduction

If you were to read the Gospel of Luke, followed by the Book of Acts, and then read through the letters Peter and Paul wrote to the churches, you may notice that the manner in which the Gospel was to be proclaimed changed as the target group or audience changed. Because the Jews were familiar with the law and the prophets, the preaching of the Messiah and His coming kingdom were effective. With the Gentiles, another approach was needed: the modeling of marriage, family and community based upon grace and truth. Here Paul explains to Timothy how such a model society begins with godly men and women.

1. The marks of a godly man. (v.8)

- a) Praying, lifting up holy hands—literally and figuratively—is masculine.
- b) Anger and quarreling is not appropriate for men.

2. The marks of a godly woman. (vv.9-10)

- a) A feminine first impression is respectable and modest.
- b) More than hairstyle, jewelry or clothing, good works mark the godly woman.

3. Can only married mothers be saved? (vv.11-15)

- a) The encounter of matriarchal vs. patriarchal societies with the Gospel.
- b) The order of creation, God-ordained role and function, and faith working by love.

Conclusion

Marriage between a man and woman is intended by God to reflect the relationship between Christ and His Bride which is the Church.

For our prayerful study, discussion and application:

- 1) Read 1Timothy2:11-12. Was Paul's instruction here normal for him everywhere?
- 2) Read 1Timothy 2:13-14. What is Paul trying to say here by referring to Genesis?
- 3) Read 1Timothy 2:15. Is Paul teaching that only mothers can be saved? If not, what?

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