

OUR ROLES IN WORSHIP **(1 Timothy 2:8-15)**

I. The roles of men and women (vs. 8-12).

- A. Paul first tells Timothy about the role of men in verse 8.
- B. Paul willed or commanded that men do the praying.
 - 1. Most commentators believe that “praying” stands for all parts of leading in worship (singing, preaching, etc).
 - 2. The word “men” in the Greek is gender specific: it limits this to only males praying or leading in worship.
 - 3. In fact, the word “everywhere” extends the role of leadership to any place in which worship acts are offered to God.
 - 4. If public prayer is offered, it is to be done by Christian males if any are around.
- C. The males who are to pray must meet certain qualifications.
 - 1. They must have holy lives, which is the meaning of “lifting up holy hands.”
 - 2. They are not to pray while angry with brethren or others.
 - 3. They are not to pray with sinful thoughts is the idea of the word “doubting.”
- D. Paul now spends the rest of the chapter dealing with the women of the Lord’s church.
- E. The role they play is a submissive one to God first and then men.
- F. They show their submission to God by, first of all, dressing appropriately.
 - 1. The word modestly is very interesting.
 - 2. The Greek word is used only twice in the New Testament, both in this book, where it appears in 3:2.
- G. Along with this idea of modesty goes the idea of shamefacedness.
 - 1. This is another interesting word that appears only here and in Hebrews 12:28 as reverence.
 - 2. It carries the idea of moral repugnance to a dishonorable act.
- H. We are then told she will dress with sobriety, which indicates self-control.
- I. She will not dress in a way that draws attention to her outwardly.
 - 1. There is nothing wrong with jewelry or having one’s hair done or wearing nice clothing.
 - 2. When in worship to God, however, if worn to draw attention to oneself, it is totally out of place.
- J. She is to adorn herself with good works, those things in which it is appropriate for a Christian woman to engage.
- K. Notice this statement: Paul “left the impression that the godly woman was practically, personally, purposefully dressed for the particular occasion in question. Never was she to be sloppy or slothful; that would defy the reputation of a God of order. Never was she to dress sensuously or immodestly; that would defy the reputation of a God of holiness. Never was she to dress distastefully or inappropriately; that would defy the reputation of a God whose goals are spiritual in nature. Never was she to

dress extravagantly...; that would defy the reputation of a God of humility...A woman's clothing choices were to be made with an attitude of self-control. They were to be deliberate decisions based on what would honor God, and what would honor the precious calling of womanhood."

- L. This passage teaches that the woman's role is to honor God first by the way she dresses, which is in a way that calls attention to her inner spiritual beauty and not outward appearances.
- M. We then see that her role is to honor her husband in the worship setting by being submissive to him.
 - 1. The word "silence" is better translated quietness and carries the idea of not meddling in the affairs of others.
 - 2. It does not mean total silence because then a woman could not sing.
 - 3. This is not discussing a class setting, but a worship one.
 - 4. It shows a respect for the role or affairs of the men in the worship service.
 - 5. She honors her God by being obedient to His command to do so, and her husband by showing him the respect of his position as her head.
- N. She is not to teach in the presence of Christian men nor to take over their teaching opportunities and begin to teach them.
- O. If she were to do these things, she would be undermining the authority of her husband, given him by God.
- P. Her role is to honor God first and then her husband.

II. The reasons for her role (vs. 13-14).

- A. The first reason is that Adam, or man, was created first and then Eve, or woman.
 - 1. Notice this statement by Barnes: "Man was made as the lord, of this lower creation, and placed in the garden, and then the woman was made of a rib taken from his side, and given to him, not as a lord, but as a companion. All the circumstances combine to show the subordinate nature of her rank, and to prove that she was not designed to exert authority over the man."
 - 2. She was created to be a "help meet" for him.
- B. The second reason is that Eve, woman, was the one deceived in the Garden of Eden and not Adam, man.
 - 1. Her apparent susceptibility to being deceived is shown by Paul as a reason why she is not to take a leadership role in the Lord's church.
 - 2. Notice one more statement from Barnes: "In many traits of character, and among them those which are most lovely, woman is superior to man; yet it is undoubtedly true that, as a general thing, temptation will make a stronger impression on her than on him. "

III. The result of fulfilling her role (vs. 15).

- A. The basic result is that if she fulfills her role she will be saved.
- B. Some have taken the idea of the phrase "saved in childbearing" to mean that a woman must bear children.

1. This is not the case at all because some women cannot bear children and surely God would not rule them as lost for this.
 2. It simply is a part put for the whole of her role as keeper of the home.
- C. If godly women fulfill their role in life and worship with the proper attitudes of faith, love and holiness maintained by self-control, she is going to be saved.
1. Without faith, love and holiness, one won't be saved.
 2. Without self-control, one won't be submissive.