

WORSHIP SERVICE - 3.19.2023

THE GOSPEL IN THE LIFE OF THE CHURCH - PART 7 - GOD'S PEOPLE IN PUBLIC WORSHIP

I. INTRODUCTION

- Main idea of today's message: God's messengers are to adorn God's message.
- Our main concentration of study today will be vv8-10.

1 Timothy 2:8-15

8 I desire then that in every place the men should pray, lifting holy hands without anger or quarreling; **9** 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, **10** but with what is proper for women who profess godliness—with good works. **11** Let a woman learn quietly with all submissiveness. **12** I do not permit a woman to teach or to exercise authority over a man; rather, she is to remain quiet. **13** For Adam was formed first, then Eve; **14** and Adam was not deceived, but the woman was deceived and became a transgressor. **15** Yet she will be saved through childbearing—if they continue in faith and love and holiness, with self-control.

- Paul's main reason for writing to Timothy is found in 1 Tim. 3:15. "if I delay, you may know how one ought to behave in the household of God, which is the church of the living God, a pillar and buttress of the truth."

II. THE POSTURE OF MEN AND WOMEN IN PUBLIC WORSHIP

MEN AND THEIR PRAYERS (8)

- 8 I desire then that in every place the men should pray, lifting holy hands without anger or quarreling;
- Paul assumes that the men will pray and lead prayers in the church.
- "In every place..." every place where the church gathers.
- When the church gathers prayer must take place.
- In Jewish culture and the synagogue, men lead prayer in the home and in the synagogue. No indication that this was any different in the early church.
- Men are commanded to lead their homes and they are to set the tone in the gathering of the church.
- "Lifting holy hands" - do men have to pray with hands lifted up?
- The OT describes lots of different postures that are taken in prayer and worship; standing, kneeling, faces prostrated to the ground.
- The key here is not the uplifted hands but that they are "holy hands".
- Paul is moving from the external posture of prayer to the internal disposition of the heart.
- The posture of our heart is more important than our posture in prayer.
- The outward gesture of prayer is futile if the heart is bound up with ill-will towards others.
- We are to pray "*Without anger or quarreling...*" If you're getting into arguments and quarrels with your brothers, if there is a lot of quarreling in the home, if you are seething in anger, that will contradict any posture taken in public worship that might make you look holy and pious outwardly.
- It's hypocritical for a man to come into the assembly, lift up his hands in prayer, when he has been argumentative with others.
- **Matthew 6:1** "Beware of practicing your righteousness before other people in order to be seen by them, for then you will have no reward from your Father who is in heaven.
- There is a connection between our hearts and the work of our hands.
- Isaiah 1:15-16 When you spread out your hands, I will hide my eyes from you; even though you make many prayers, I will not listen; your

hands are full of blood. 16 Wash yourselves; make yourselves clean; remove the evil of your deeds from before my eyes; cease to do evil.

- It's rather useless to stretch your hands out in prayer if they are defiled with sin.

- Men, how you treat your spouse will determine the effectiveness of your prayers.
- 1 Peter 3:7 Likewise, husbands, live with your wives in an understanding way, showing honor to the woman as the weaker vessel, since they are heirs with you of the grace of life, so that your prayers may not be hindered.
- Sin, anger, and quarreling are a hindrance to unified prayer in the Church.
- The Lord's Prayer - "Forgive us our debts as we also have forgiven our debtors." (Matt. 6:12)
- It is nearly impossible to offer up genuine prayers if you are withholding forgiveness from others or are harboring some grudge, resentment, or bitterness against someone else.
- Jesus instructs us that reconciliation is to precede worship.
- Mark 11:25 And whenever you stand praying, forgive, if you have anything against anyone, so that your Father also who is in heaven may forgive you your trespasses."
- Holiness, love and peace are indispensable qualities for unified, God-honoring, effective prayer.
- But is it necessary to lift up my hands when I pray? No, that is not necessary. Bodily posture and gestures in prayer are cultural.
- In the OT, the normal posture was to stand and lift or spread out the hands as an expression of submission, dependence, and faith.
- The issue isn't whether you sit, stand, kneel, or lift your hands but that your prayers be accompanied by the corresponding heart posture of holiness, love, and peace.
- Our posture in prayer should be expressive of our inward devotion.

WOMEN AND THEIR ADORNMENT (9-10)

- 9 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, 10 but with what is proper for women who profess godliness—with good works.
- This is another passage that has been used to set all sorts of legalistic demands on women.
- Paul writes, "Likewise...", he turns his attention to female members and this is linked to what he just told the men.
- Women did not lead the prayers but the issue of comportment in the public gathering is important for both men and women.
- Men are to lead the prayers with uplifted holy hands and holy hearts, the inward being reflected on the outward, and women are also to have their outward adornment match the inward qualities of piety that are befitting gospel people.
- Paul is not saying women shouldn't adorn themselves, he is saying they should adorn themselves.
- It's HOW they should adorn themselves that is in question.
- 1. Dress in respectable attire - dress in what is appropriate to and fits the occasion.
- It is dressing in a manner appropriate for the audience, environment, and activity you are participating in.
- One should take into consideration what is respectable attire for a public worship gathering.
- 2. Dress with Modesty -
- Modesty is more about an inward disposition than the outward expression.
- It is an inward humility that does not make oneself the focus or center of attention.
- It is dressing in a way so as not to distract from what should be central.
- A godly woman dresses modestly so as not to distract from the centrality of Christ and His Word.
- A modestly dressed woman is demure and discreet in their dress and does not dress in any apparel that is deliberately suggestive or seductive.
- 3. Dress with self-control.
- Self-control is about demonstrating a level of restraint. In this case, restraint in how you dress.
- Self-control is a fruit of the Spirit (Gal. 5:22-23) that is a great look on a godly woman.
- The point isn't the type of adornment but the reason why you are adorning yourself.
- Diagnostic Questions:
- Do I like to dress so that others notice me?
- Do I like being the center of attention and do I use my outward appearance to capture that attention?
- Does my outward adornment help point people to Christ or is it distracting?

- Do I exhibit self-control in my dress?

WHAT IS PROPER

- Paul writes, a woman's dress should not be with this: braided hair, gold, pearls or costly attire.
- We know that from culture to culture, hairstyles, jewelry and clothing have different meanings. What might be culturally appropriate in one place may not be in another.
- What Paul writes may have had something to do with the cultural trends of the rich women of the Roman court.
- Some of the fashion trends were driven by the rich and influential women of Rome and at Ephesus.
- Rich ladies would braid their hair and place gold and gemstones in their hair, and wore expensive and extravagant jewelry and clothing.
- They loved to parade themselves around to be noticed by everyone.

- Paul now moves from the outward to the inward, external to internal.
- Not with braided hair, gold, or pearls, or costly attire, but with this... what is proper for women who profess godliness and with good works.
- The whole flow of this exhortation is that Christians are to conduct themselves in a manner that does not detract from the gospel mission but enhances it.
- The message of Christ is to be adorned by the messengers of Christ.
- The message about God's desire that all people be saved and come to the knowledge of the truth and come to know the One God and the One Mediator must be adorned with the corresponding conduct of God's heralds.

- Women are to dress with godliness and good works.
- It's the lifestyle of godly women not the style that matters.

- Diagnostic Questions:
- Is what I wear proper for a woman who professes godliness?
- If I confess that I am of Christ, is that demonstrated in how I adorn myself on the outside?
- Is my outfit so loud and distracting that others cannot hear my profession of faith in Christ?

- Wear good works. Good works are the product of a life of godliness.
- Good works are the proper adornment for a woman of God in public worship.
- Your Christlikeness is a beautiful adornment to the gospel message.
- Paul is reminding women in the church that beauty is not just physical but moral; beauty is not just about the body but involves the character as well.
- John Stott writes, "The church should be a veritable beauty parlor, because it encourages women members to adorn themselves with good deeds."
- Good deeds enhance a woman's natural beauty.
- Men have a role in applauding and recognizing women that exhibit Christlikeness and godly character.
- 1 Peter 3:3-4 Do not let your adorning be external—the braiding of hair and the putting on of gold jewelry, or the clothing you wear— 4 but let your adorning be the hidden person of the heart with the imperishable beauty of a gentle and quiet spirit, which in God's sight is very precious.
- If this is what is precious to God, it must be precious to us.

APPLICATION AND REFLECTION

In light of today's message...

- What did I learn about the gospel?
- How can I apply what I learned about the gospel to my life?
- With whom can I share the gospel this week?