

What Paul really said about Women

PART 1

He said what?

1Timothy 2:9-15

- Do not wear braided hair, gold, pearls, or costly array
- Learn in silence and subjection; be silent
- Do not teach
- Under man
- Easily deceived

He said what?

1 Corinthians 14:34&35

- Let your women keep silent in the church
- It is not permitted for them to speak
- They are to be under obedience
- If they have any questions they need to ask their husbands at home
- It is shameful for them to speak in the church

He said what?

Ephesians 5:22& Titus 2:5

- Submit to their husbands

Why Would Paul Say Such Things?

Was he just influenced by culture?

Are women a lesser people than men?

Was Paul just a chauvinist pig?

1 Timothy 2: 9-15 (KJV)

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;

10 But (which becometh women professing godliness) with good works.

11 Let the woman learn in silence with all subjection.

12 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.

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

Perceptions of the 1st century woman

- Some believe that all women were confined to the house filling their duties of cooking, cleaning, and giving birth
- Contrary to the classical and hellenistic eras, women were more than just house workers and childbearers.
- Women were able to gain some financial security and independence from their husbands.

Dress code 1 Timothy 2:9&10

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10 But (which becometh women professing godliness) with good works.

Seneca A.D. 41-39 on virtues of his mother

Unchastity, the greatest evil of our time, has never classed you with the great majority of women. Jewels have not moved you, nor pearls...you have not been perverted by the imitations of worse kind of woman that leads even the virtuous into pitfalls.

Epictetus, The Encheiridion

As soon as they are fourteen, women are called 'ladies' by men. And so when they have nothing else but only to be bedfellows of men, they begin to beautify themselves, and put all their hopes in that.

Epictetus, The Encheiridion

It is worthwhile for us to take pains, therefore, to make them understand that they are honored for nothing else but appearing decent and modest.

1 Timothy 2:9

- Not about restricting women's freedoms, or placing them under burqas and hiding their beauty
- Paul is encouraging them not to fall prey to the surrounding culture and to live at a higher standard
- Put on the new person

Ephesians 4:24 (CJB)

and clothe yourselves with the new nature created to be godly, which expresses itself in the righteousness and holiness that flow from the truth.

Plutarch

Herodotus was not right in saying that a woman lays aside her modesty with her undergarments. On the contrary, a virtuous woman put on modesty in its stead, and the husband and wife bring into their mutual relations the greater modesty as a token of the greatest love.

So is 1 Timothy 2:9 about what women wear?

It is a little more than that

Verse 9 is the start of a thought that is completed in verse 10

Rather, they should adorn themselves with what is appropriate for women who claim to be worshipping God, namely, **good deeds.**

The Character

- The culture around them was using a specific dress which modeled actions
- Paul wants them to live according to that of Christ
- The purpose is how they are presenting themselves not what they are presenting themselves with

1 Peter 3:3&4 (CJB)

3 Your beauty should not consist in externals such as fancy hairstyles, gold jewelry or what you wear; **4** rather, let it be the inner character of your heart, with the imperishable quality of a gentle and quiet spirit. In God's sight this is of great value.

John MacArthur

Those women who have publicly committed themselves to pursuing godliness should support that claim not only in their demeanor, wardrobe, and appearance, but by being clothed with righteous behavior.

1 Timothy 2:11-12 KJV

11 Let the woman learn in silence with all subjection.

12 But I suffer not a woman to teach, nor to usurp authority over the man, but to be in silence.

Culture

- The “new woman” would often leave her household duties to learn philosophy.
- She would often throw her new knowledge at her husband, usurping him in conversation.

Culture

- Women would exhort knowledge and authority in the courts.
- Paul is warning of such ideology that would cause disruption in the church.

1 Timothy 3:14&15 KJV

13 For Adam was first formed, then Eve.

14 And Adam was not deceived, but the woman being deceived was in the transgression.

Gender roles

- Adam was created first
- Was meant to be the leader of the house
- Eve was created second as his helpmate
- She lead in the transgression and and Adam followed
- Gen.3:15

1 Timothy 2:15 KJV

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

Self Explanatory

- Bearing children is a blessing
- The New Roman Woman looked down on pregnancy
- It inhibited her promiscuous lifestyle
- Hurt her body
- Abortions became common

Was Paul a Chauvinist Jerk?

NO!