

Title: Women in the Church - Part 1

Passage: 1 Timothy 2:8-15

Draft Summary:

Key Truths

- Outward appearance and attitude of women: modesty and self control, adorn with good works

Application:

- Women: cultivate inner beauty
- Mom's of girls: teach them modesty and inner beauty while modeling that.
- Mom's of boys: teach them to appreciate inner beauty and modesty while modeling that
- Single men: seek first the internal beauty of a woman and always have a Biblical lens on.
- For every look you make at yourself, take a look at Christ ten times more

Possible Discussion Questions:

- How have you struggled with temptations related to misperceptions of yourself or what others may see of you?
 - How may we respond counter-culturally with Biblical truths?
 - What next steps will you take in response to the sermon?
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Introduction

Present culture

- much confusion about gender with perceived fluidity.
- People want to live what they feel, want and perceive.
- Does this bring more peace? No, but rather the opposite as there is more brokenness and chaos.

God's Word

- What is right, true, and perfect
- We should adjust ourselves to the Word and not the reverse (adjusting the Word to our perceptions marred by sin)

Context of Passage:

- we are to live counter-cultural that leads to glorifying God as we enhance the Gospel

Passage: 1 Timothy 2:8-15

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. Let

a woman learn quietly with all submissiveness. I do not permit a woman to teach or to exercise authority over a man; rather, she is to remain quiet. For Adam was formed first, then Eve; and Adam was not deceived, but the woman was deceived and became a transgressor. Yet she will be saved through childbearing—if they continue in faith and love and holiness, with self-control.

EXPOSITION

Overview:

- I. Outward appearance and attitude of women in the church (v.9-10)
- II. Women's role in the church
- III. God's design for women

I. Outward appearance and attitude of women in the church.

1 Timothy 2:8-10

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.

Cultural context:

with braided hair and gold or pearls or costly attire

- Background commentary:
 - at that time, women often wore their hair in elaborate woven ways that included precious jewels and gems that was very flashy and drew much attention.
- Cultural purpose was to show off one's wealth.
- Question in mind: What can I wear that makes me look good?

Contrast: Modesty

- Question: What can I wear that demonstrates a humble heart in worship of God?

women should adorn themselves in respectable apparel

- Adorn = to arrange and to put in order, to make ready.
 - Meaning = A woman should arrange herself properly to worship God.
- Respectable apparel
- The way we dress mirrors our hearts

What kind of heart attitudes should we then have?

- modesty
- self-control

with modesty

- Modesty = not being ashamed but rather reflecting humility
 - Dress so as not to be source of any temptation. Reject anything that is not honorable to God.
 - Contrast: Culture - dress what makes you feel good.

1 Corinthians 10:23-24

"All things are lawful," but not all things are helpful. "All things are lawful," but not all things build up. Let no one seek his own good, but the good of his neighbor.

and self-control,

- Self-control = control over sexual impulses
 - Do not be tempted to dress to be wanted.

Why?

God wants all people to know Christ

but with what is proper for women who profess godliness—with good works.

Why command to just women?

- Women are uniquely prone to temptation to lavish themselves in appearance
 - See cosmetic/marketing industry that is primarily focused on women.
- But note: Men are part of the problem as tempted to evaluate women only externally.
- A woman who is beautiful in the eyes of God ought to be beautiful to godly men.

Command: Adorn oneself with good works

1 Timothy 5:10

and having a reputation for good works: if she has brought up children, has shown hospitality, has washed the feet of the saints, has cared for the afflicted, and has devoted herself to every good work.

1 Peter 3:3-5

Do not let your adorning be external—the braiding of hair and the putting on of gold jewelry, or the clothing you wear— 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. For this is how the holy women who hoped in God used to adorn themselves, by submitting to their own husbands,

- a woman is made beautiful by what she does, not what she wears.
- A woman is made beautiful by godliness, not gaudiness

Proverbs 31:30

Charm is deceitful, and beauty is vain, but a woman who fears the LORD is to be praised.

- true beauty comes from nurturing the inner woman.

Questions of reflection:

- How much money do you spend on outward appearance vs. what is gifted to the Lord for His purposes?
- How much time do you spend in front the mirror vs. time spent with the Lord in prayer?

Compare: when looking in a mirror

- Men tend to look at the good aspects of themselves.
- Women tend to look at the bad aspects of themselves.

Compare: Bible vs. culture

God's definition of beauty stands in contrast to culture

- God defines beauty on the inside (not outside)
- God sets standard of beauty that may be achieved by applying His grace to their lives (not unattainable)
- God cultivates beauty that will never fade (that is temporary)

The beauty of culture may turn heads but Biblical beauty makes lasting impact

Application

Women:

- cultivate inner beauty

Mom's of girls:

- teach modesty and inner beauty and model that

Mom's of boys:

- teach boy to appreciate inner beauty and modesty and model that.

Single men:

- seek first the internal beauty of a woman and always have Biblical lens on.
- If tempted, evaluate what are you exposed to and cut out sources of temptation
 - Ex: Joseph fled temptation

Husbands:

- be reasonable with your wives on how you want them to look.

The way we dress reflects our hearts

- If see someone dressed not modestly, then there may be hurt and insecurity underlying.
- First understand where they come from before correcting someone.

For every look you make at yourself, take a look at Christ ten times more

- consider what Christ says about you rather than what others say.
- Focus on the truth than misperceptions of yourselves. Focus on what Christ has done, not on your flesh.

Colossians 3:1-2

If then you have been raised with Christ, seek the things that are above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. Set your minds on things that are above, not on things that are on earth.