

1 Timothy, Chapter Two, Lesson Three

ADORNED PROPERLY 1 Timothy 2:8-10

STIMULATE

** In verse seven from our last study together, Paul linked faith with truth, do you recall why?

Faith in just any form of religion or philosophy of men will only lead to destruction.

Truth, without faith, will only condemn men to eternal judgment.

Salvation comes about when a fallen sinner places his **faith** in Jesus Christ who brought us grace and **truth**.
cf. John 1:17

** From verse five of that study, what was at the heart of Paul's message which boldly confronted the demonic doctrine and false teachers of his day?

“For there is one God, and one mediator also between God and men, the man Christ Jesus.”

** What two roles did we see the apostle Paul faithfully fulfill in that passage?

The fact that he was an “**Appointed Preacher**” and an apostle of the Lord Jesus Christ.

** Did you find yourself wanting to identify with those appointments and even follow in Paul's footsteps as we walk with the Lord each day?

Absolutely - We are to **herald** the saving gospel of Christ as He **sends** us to “all men” living in darkness.

MOTIVATE

** Up to this point in his epistle, Paul has described to Timothy the seriousness of the situation there in Ephesus. Timothy was to be an example by correcting the doctrinal error around him and by making an evangelistic prayer life on behalf of “all men” his first priority. With all of that said, Paul is now going to get very practical in his instruction to men and women of the church. How are we to live within the context of the church setting? If we hope to live for the glory of Christ, how can we be “**Adorned Properly**” during our times of corporate worship? For the answer, let's read our passage together.

Read passage (V.8-10)

Opening Prayer

Adorned Properly

INVESTIGATE

V. 8 ** How do we know that Paul is about to make a summary statement based upon a previous instruction?

By beginning his thought with “Therefore”, Paul is saying “I want” you to live this way “because” of what has just been said.

** When Paul says, “I want”, is he merely expressing a passing desire which he hopes the church will adopt?

No - Paul's use of the word "want" comes from the word *boulomai*, and could be translated "I command," or "I purpose". He is very serious about the nature of this command and that those who pray for the lost when the church gathers for worship should be "**Adorned Properly**".

** To whom is this command being given? Who is to take upon themselves this serious call for evangelistic prayer within the service of the church?

The "men" of the church! "Men" comes from *aner*, and means men as opposed to women; male as opposed to female. The men are the leaders when the church meets for corporate worship and as such, they are to be the ones who lead the corporate prayer life. (This will be explained in greater detail in our study together next week of verses 11-15).

** How do we know that Paul was referring to prayer within the church?

Three reasons:

First - His original statement to Timothy to "remain on at Ephesus, in order that you may instruct certain men not to teach strange doctrines..." Timothy was not being instructed to set the city of Ephesus in order, but to set the church at Ephesus in order. cf. Acts 20:28-30

Second - The structure of the entire letter is the form and function of the church, not that of our individual life in the world around us.

Third - "...**in every place** to pray..." That phrase appears four times in Paul's writing and each time it refers to the official assembly of the church. cf. 1Corinthians 1:2, 2Corinthians 2:14 and 1Thessalonians 1:8

** So, how are men to be "**Adorned Properly**" for this ministry of prayer? What "clothing" does the watching world around us see in the lives of these men?

"...lifting up holy hands..."

** Is Paul prescribing a certain posture for prayer?

No - it was common for the Old Testament saint to lift their hands in prayer to God, but Paul is using the phrase "holy hands" to symbolize the activities of life. This is a prerequisite for effective prayer. cf. 1Kings 8:22, Psalm 63:4, Psalm 134:1-3, Isaiah 1:15, Psalm 66:16-18 and James 5:16

** If the activity of our hands, and thus the course of our lives, is holy and unpolluted by evil; what will be missing from our walk with the Lord and corporate worship of His name?

"...without wrath and dissension." If we are "**Adorned Properly**", we will be clothed in humility toward one another and always seek the best for others. There will be no room for wrath or dissension in our hearts. cf. Ephesians 4:31, Colossians 3:12-13, 1Peter 5:5

V. 9 ** If the men of the church are to adorn themselves with humility, with holy lives void of wrath and dissension for the purpose of corporate worship; how are the women of the church to adorn themselves in preparation for worship?

Using the same command form of verse eight, Paul says they are to “adorn” themselves with proper clothing. Adorn translates *kosmeo*, from which we get the English word “cosmetic”. It means to arrange, to put in order or to make ready.

** How does Paul define the attitudes which will always accompany “proper clothing”?

He says that a woman who dresses “**modestly** and **discreetly**” is “**Adorned Properly**”. She is not to draw attention to herself through sloppy disarray or by the means of personal display because of an unbecoming wardrobe or demeanor.

** Paul will go on to give us both a negative and then a positive example of what it means to be “**Adorned Properly**”. Let's first look at the negative example. What are women to avoid in adorning themselves for worship?

“...not with braided hair and gold or pearls or costly garments...”

** Is Paul saying that a woman is not to enter the corporate worship time with braided hair?

No - The term he uses can generally mean “hair styles”. Paul is not intending to forbid certain kinds of hairdos, he is simply confronting any gaudy, ostentatious hairdo that would distract attention from the Lord and the holy purpose of worship.

** How would gold or pearls play into that concern?

The common practice of Paul's day would be for women to wear their wealth in their hair (by braiding it throughout the hairdo) and thus put themselves on display. cf. 1Peter 3:3-4

** What is another way women could draw attention to themselves in Paul's day?

By putting on “costly garments”. The costly dress worn by wealthy women in Paul's day could cost as much as 7,000 denarii (19 years of salary for the common man).

** To avoid such gaudy displays, we need to look closer at the two attitudes behind the godly woman's adornment.

modestly - comes from *aidos* and refers to modesty mixed with humility. It carries the idea of Godly fear, of not wanting to feel shame or guilt because she distracted someone from worshipping God.

discreetly - translates *sophrosunes* which means “self-control”, especially over sexual passion. Here again the godly woman is to exercise control so that neither her passion nor anyone else's are excited. cf. Matthew 18:5-6, Romans 14:20-21, 1Corinthians 8:13

V.10 ** That covers the negative example, what is the positive example given to us by Paul of a woman who is “**Adorned Properly**”?

She is adorned “by means of good works”.

** Instead of focusing too much attention on their hair, makeup or clothing, women are to put their righteousness on display through good works. Which women will do this according to Paul?

Only those who make “a claim to godliness”. Only those women who worship in spirit and truth will even desire to do this for the glory of Christ and God.

** Why are good works so important in the validation of someone’s claim to godliness?

It is only through Christ generated good works that the Christian can bring glory to God. Simply claiming a heart that wants to worship God, without the life that matches is an empty and useless claim.

All see - James 2:14-20

** Now back in our passage, let’s look closer at this godly woman’s good works. Is this simply a display of superficial gestures to win the approval of others?

No - “good works” translates *agathon* (for good), which means that the works themselves are genuinely good. These good works must mark the Christian women, who by virtue of her profession of love for Jesus Christ, will make a public profession of godliness in their daily lives. cf. Matthew 7:15-20, 12:33-35

** Finally, what does it mean that these women are “making a claim to godliness”?

Godliness translates *theosebeia*, which refers to reverence to God. To affirm that you are a Christian is to claim to love, worship, honor, and fear the Lord. A woman (or a man) cannot claim to fear God and yet disregard what His word says about their behavior. Each must wholeheartedly accept God’s design for their role in the church and lovingly fulfill it for the glory of God.

EXTRICATE

** To ensure that they are fulfilling their God-given role of leading the church in evangelistic prayer, how are men to adorn themselves?

They are to lift up “holy hands” in prayer. Their lives are to be lived out in holiness for Christ’s sake.

Remember - James 5:16

DELINEATE

** What two things will be missing from their walk with the Lord and corporate worship of His name?

“...without wrath and dissension.”

** How about for godly women, what two attitudes will govern how they adorn themselves?

“**modestly** and **discreetly**” - With a godly fear, they maintain a Christ honoring self-control.

** For these women to be “**Adorned Properly**”, what kind of clothing or appearance will they avoid.

Anything that could be considered a gaudy display or that would draw attention away from their Lord.

** What is the preoccupation for any woman who makes a “claim to godliness”. How will they be “**Adorned Properly**”?

They will adorn themselves with genuinely good works for the glory of God.

EVALUATE

** While our roles are different by God's design, can men and women learn something from each others call to worship in spirit and truth?

Absolutely - Men, too, must avoid drawing attention to themselves and should produce the "good works" which validate their claim to faith. And, women should always avoid wrath and dissension while pursuing holiness in their walk with the Lord.

ACTIVATE

** If we wish to be useful to our Master in the battle for His truth, we need to understand the fundamental principals we have seen tonight. Men and women alike, must be serious in their answer to God's call to fulfill our ministry for His glory's sake and to do so while being "**Adorned Properly**". cf. Colossians 4:17

Closing Prayer