

I Timothy Sermon #14

I Timothy 2

In these days of “Women’s Lib” and other feminist movements, the Bible makes some people see red on the issues of women.

Some have called Paul a male chauvinistic pig.

Those of us who hold to the inspiration and authority of the Word of God know that Paul’s teachings came from God and not from himself.

If we have a problem with what the Bible says about women in the church, the issue is not with Paul, or Peter, but with the Lord who gave the Word (2 Tim. 3:16-17).

All Scripture is given by inspiration of God and is profitable.

What God says is God’s will for Christian ladies – this does not come from Hollywood nor *Cosmopolitan* magazine.

This is from the Lord for Christian women

I have entitled this series “Reclaiming the Biblical Woman, Part 2”

I Timothy 2:9

Let us stand for the reading of God’s Holy Word.

I Timothy 2:9-10

Let us pray.

You may be seated.

Reclaiming the Biblical Woman, Part 2

In that day expensive hairdos arrayed with costly jewelry must have been a problem in the church.

The church today doesn't have any problems with the way women dress, does it?

Another way women in Paul's day flaunted their wealth and drew attention to themselves was by wearing **costly garments**.

Because of the extreme expense, most women owned only two or three nice dresses in their lives.

Therefore, God addressed this issue to the church at Ephesus.

He starts with commenting about **braided hair**, a term that can generally mean "hair styles."

His point is not that women should be indifferent to their hair.

But He is confronting any gaudy, ostentatious (ostentatious) hairdo that would distract attention from the Lord

Women in that culture often wove **gold, pearls**, or other jewelry through their hairdos to call attention to themselves and their wealth or beauty.

There is nothing wrong with owning jewelry.

Solomon's bride in The Song of Solomon wore gold and silver jewelry.

But jewelry was (and is) often used as a way of flaunting a woman's wealth or calling attention to herself in an unwholesome way.

It is that preoccupation which Paul forbids in the place of worship.

★Church services are not for fashion shows.

He did not forbid the use of nice clothing or ornaments.

He cautioned balance and propriety, with the emphasis on modesty and holy character.

Paul admonished the Christian women to major on the “inner person.”

When a woman dresses for the worship service to attract attention to herself, she has violated the purpose of worship

I Peter 3:4, *“But let it be the hidden man of the heart, in that which is not corruptible, even the ornament of a meek and quiet spirit, which is in the sight of God of great price.”*

Do you remember the general principles of Verse 9 as we began this series?

Vs. 9a – women are to arrange themselves in a modest, respectable dress and accessories.

And the two characteristics that help the woman are shamefacedness (this refers to keeping herself so as to not shame herself) and sobriety (good sense).

With these general principles, Paul moves to specifics in the latter part of the verse.

Vs. 9c

The adornment of a woman is not to be characterized by four things that are mentioned here:

1. Braided hair
2. Gold
3. Pearls
4. Costly array

Really, this can be boiled down into two categories – one has to do with elaborate hair fashions and the other has to do with expensive accessories and garments.

Does this mean it is wrong for a woman to wear a gold wedding ring?

A string of pearls? To go to a hairstylist?

Is this passage forbidding those things? That's a good question.

When we read this pointblank, is it excluding these things from a women's dress?

★There are only two major passages in the New Testament that talk about women's adorning.

We will look at the other one in a moment.

But there are a number of Old Testament principles that will help us understand God's teaching on this subject.

Four principles/implications that I think are helpful in interpreting this passage.

#1 – There is not a single accessory or piece of cloth that is sinful in and of itself.

Not one.

Earrings, bracelets, necklaces, linen, silk, fine garments

Does God hate gold? Does Jesus dislike pearls?

There is a place for lovely clothes that reflect the humble grace of a woman, as evidenced in Proverbs 31:22, "*She maketh herself coverings of tapestry; her clothing is silk and purple.*" – costly garments

In Ezekiel 16:10-14, we have a parallelism between God and Jerusalem like that of a husband with a wife.

God has decked her with the finest clothes, bracelets, and chains—made out of silver and gold

#2 – Secondly, I did find some articles that are associated with certain events or stations of life.

Some clothes are only appropriate for certain situations.

There was such a thing as—

Widow's clothing – Genesis 38

Clothing of a bride – Revelation 21:2 – prepared as a bride adorned for her husband

Clothing for royalty – Esther 5:1 – Esther put on her royal apparel and stood in the inner court of the king's house.

And David's daughters wore this kind of clothing in II Samuel 13:18

In the Bible, there is certain clothing associated with certain situations

I don't see women coming to church on Wednesday nights in their bridal gowns

It is not associated with setting

Bathing suits—

Pajamas—sleepwear is for sleeping.

#3 – Thirdly, there are some articles of clothing that are not to be worn

Deuteronomy 22:5 – a woman is not to wear men's clothing – she is not to wear clothing that is typically associated with the man

What kind of clothing is that? Well, that depends on the culture.

I wouldn't think of wearing a skirt, but in certain cultures, the men do that.

So, in our culture that which is typically associated with males is not to be worn by females and vice versa.

A woman should look like a woman

A man should look like a man

That is the principle and if you're unsure, then don't.

There are clothes that are not to be worn.

Proverbs 7:10, *“And, behold, there met him a woman with the attire of an harlot, and subtil of heart.”*

It refers to the attire of the harlot. This should not be worn.

Genesis 38 – Tamar wrapped herself and sat in an open place and when Judah saw her, he thought her to be an harlot because she had covered her face – prostitute's clothing – vs. 15

This tells us that there is certain clothing and certain ways of arranging your clothing that are associated with immorality.

Women should not dress like a harlot.

#4 – Fourthly, any article of clothing may be offensive to God when it is worn for the wrong reasons.

If we compare Isaiah 3:16-24 with Ezekiel 16:10-14 – the same articles of clothing are mentioned and in one passage God is approving and the other God is disapproving – what is the difference?

Well, in Isaiah 3, the Bible says that the women were haughty, proud, eyes (flirtatious) – the problem was that they were proud women.

They were wearing those things for the wrong reasons.

They were wearing those things to attract attention to themselves.

Now, let's look at I Timothy 2:9

Is this passage excluding certain things? No. I don't believe so.

First place – braided hair – hair that is braided.

Is it OK to have pony tails, beehives?

Does this mean braids are wrong and anything else is all right?

Second place – no gold – does that mean silver is all right?

Third place – no pearls – are diamonds OK?

The point is the passage has singled out a few things and we end up wondering is there something sinful about these four things.

I'm saying this list is not exclusive enough.

There must be another point here.

And here is the other passage I want you to see because I don't believe God is just outlawing certain things here.

This will help us to understand.

Turn to I Peter 3 – this is the other major passage of the New Testament that talks about women's adorning.

This gives light to our situation.

This situation is in the home between a husband and his wife.

All of this hangs on one word – “adorning”

I Peter 3:3

God did not say woman is not to wear clothes

God did not say woman is not to clothe herself.

Paul wrote and Peter wrote that they are not to let this be their adorning.

What is “adorning”?

It is the thing that is distinctive about you.

It is the thing that enhances your beauty, enhances your stature.

It is what you are known for – vs. 4 – it shouldn't be gold, silver, and expensive clothing

What is Mr. T known for? Gold chains

What is Don King known for? Hair

Brittany Spear – Midriff

The Scripture is saying that in public worship, women and their adorning is not to be characterized by these things.

Can a woman wear a gold wedding band? Yes.
Is that her adornment? No. It is a sign of her covenant.

How about a watch? Not adorning – it is to tell time.
It is so she can be to church on time.

Why does a woman put her hair up in a style? Practicality
God is not outlawing certain things
He is saying that our adorning is not to be characterized by that which is external.

What should we be characterized by?
Go back to I Timothy 2:10 – we will look at this more next time.

Let us stand for closing invitation.

Are you willing as a Christian woman to give yourself to the standard that God gives
here?

Ladies, with your dress, are you trying to please God and your husband or the world?
What is your adorning? Is it character or is it clothes?

Single men, what should we be looking for in a woman? Outer beauty or inner beauty?

Fathers, what should we be helping our daughters to understand?

Go to prayer.

Without Christ as your personal Savior?