

SERIES TITLE: CHURCH ON COURSE

PART FOUR: CLOTHES AND WOMEN

TEXT: 1 TIMOTHY 2:9-15

INTRODUCTION.

Timothy was a young pastor who was mentored by the apostle Paul. After Paul left Ephesus, he put Timothy in charge of organizing the churches. False teachers were endangering the mission. These teachers were speculating about obscure and less important matters, instead of preaching new life in Christ. In this letter, Paul encourages Timothy to deal with this situation and tells him how to move forward in ministry. Although addressed to one person, this letter was intended to benefit the whole church.

DISCUSSION.

Describe some things that have been a big distraction to you during a worship service.

EXAMINATION.

Vv.9-10 Whereas v.8 was directed at males, this is for women. What are women doing that interferes with worship?

What is modesty and how do you define it?

How does Paul address these issues of flaunting your wealth (expensive fashions) or flaunting yourself (immodest clothing) in worship?

Vv.11-14 Are these verses meant for all times and places or just to address a problem happening in Ephesus? On what do you base your answer?

Compare 1 Cor. 14:33-35. How does this help or complicate your answer?

Doesn't this mean women have a lower status than men? Why or why not? (Consider Gal. 3:28)

How does Paul's emphasis on the created order add to the discussion?

V.15 How do we know Paul isn't talking about eternal salvation?

What other kinds of saving are there?

How do we know that Paul isn't putting the blame for the Fall upon Eve? (See Rom. 5:12-17 and 1 Cor. 15:22)

If some people in Ephesus were teaching things like the following, how would that influence your understanding of the passage?

- Women are free in Christ to live however they want
- Women are superior to men because they are child-bearers
- Women should abandon motherhood in favor of more important things

Look at 1 Tim. 5:11-15 and see if those young widows might have been a focus for Paul's commands to modesty, quietness, and motherhood.

APPLICATION.

- What makes these verses so hard for us to hear?
- What is the most difficult part to understand and apply?
- How do you react to this statement?
I Must Allow God's Truth to Challenge the Myths and Morals of My Culture.
- FACT: What is a key truth that you understood from this passage?
- REACT: What did you feel?
- ACT: What are you going to do?