

# COMMUNITY BIBLE CHURCH

## PAUL'S FIRST LETTER TO TIMOTHY

### I TIMOTHY 2:9-15

#### WEEK OF MARCH 16–21

### ROLE OF WOMEN IN THE CHURCH

Paul is writing Timothy, the pastor in Ephesus, to instruct him to put things in order in the church. The theme of this first letter to Timothy is stated in 1 Timothy 3:15 where Paul instructed Timothy, "I write so that you will know how one ought to conduct themselves in the household of God." In Chapter 1, Paul instructed Timothy to expose and put a stop to false teaching infiltrating the church. Paul then addressed the importance of prayer for the lost in 1 Timothy 2:1-8. Because women were apparently assuming leadership roles in the public gatherings of the church, Paul specifically instructed Timothy that the men were to pray for the lost during the time of assembly of the church. Paul continues in 1 Timothy 2:9-15 to provide instruction for the role and conduct of women when the church is assembled. Apparently, when the church gathered some of the women were calling attention to themselves causing distraction during the public gathering of the church with inappropriate dress and attitude. Some women were also asserting leadership in the church and usurping the role of the God ordained role of men. In 1 Timothy 2:9-15, Paul addresses the appearance, attitude, testimony, role, design and contribution of women in the church.

#### **Read I Timothy 2:9-10 and 1 Peter 3:3-4: A woman's appearance and attitude in the public worship service.**

1. Paul instructed the men to pray for the lost in the public assembly of the church. What is the significance of Paul's use of "Likewise" (NASB) (LSB) or "In like manner" (KJV) in **verse 9**?
2. Some women in the church were living self-centered lives, seeking to draw attention to themselves when the church was assembled together causing a distraction in the church. In **verse 9**, what instruction does Paul give to women in the assembly of the church?
3. In "God's High Calling for Women", p.18, John MacArthur poses these questions for women to consider in selecting appropriate attire for the public church service: "Why am I dressed the way I am? What is my goal? Am I trying to draw attention to God or to myself? Will what I'm wearing stand out or will it be considered appropriate for the occasion?" How does our culture undermine the instruction of **verse 9**?
4. Rather than a preoccupation with appearance, in **verse 10**, what is the proper attitude and testimony of a godly woman?
5. From **1 Peter 3:3-4**, how does Peter address the dress and demeanor of women?

## Read 1 Timothy 2:11-12 The woman's role in the public worship service

6. Jewish culture did not value the training and instruction of women and the Greek culture even went so far to prohibit the public instruction of women. Paul however uses the imperative that women are to receive instruction. What instruction does Paul give in **1 Timothy 2:11** about the conduct of women in the public assembly of the church?

“When Paul writes in **1 Timothy 2:11**, “let a woman learn in silence”, he means that women are not to teach during the official meeting of the church. The responsibility of being the preacher, the teacher or the one who leads in prayer and the worship service is a role ordained for men.”

God's High Calling for Women, J. MacArthur, page 62

7. In **verse 12**, what is it that Paul forbids?
8. When the church is assembled what ministries are appropriate or available for women?

## Read 1 Timothy 2:13-15 and I Cor. 11:8-9. The basis or rationale of God's instruction for women.

9. What does Paul say in **verse 13**, about the connection between the woman's role and God's order of creation?
10. How does the account of the fall (**Gen. 3:1-7**) and **1 Timothy 2:14** also show God's rationale for leadership of the man?
11. In **vs. 15**, Paul says a woman will be “saved” (LSB)(KJV)(RSV) through childbearing. Does that mean that a woman can be saved from sin through childbearing? From **Ephesians 2:8-9** and other passages, how do we know that is not the case?

“Paul teaches here that although a woman precipitated the Fall and women bear that responsibility, yet they may be preserved from that stigma through childbearing. The rescue, the delivery, the freeing of (all) women from the stigma of having led the race into sin happens when they bring up a righteous seed.... Paul's point is that while a woman may have led the race into sin, women have the privilege of leading the race out of sin to godliness.” God's High Calling for Women, J. MacArthur, page 84

12. How do you respond when faced with a conflict between the commands of the Bible and a cultural or contemporary norm or idea?
13. In what ways, if any, do you need to examine and change your view of the roles of men and women in relation to the public assembly of the church?