

## Men and Women in Worship

1 Timothy 2:8-15

Therefore I want the men everywhere to pray, lifting up holy hands without anger or disputing. <sup>9</sup> I also want the women to dress modestly, with decency and propriety, adorning themselves, not with elaborate hairstyles or gold or pearls or expensive clothes, <sup>10</sup> but with good deeds, appropriate for women who profess to worship God.

<sup>11</sup> A woman should learn in quietness and full submission. <sup>12</sup> I do not permit a woman to teach or to assume authority over a man; she must be quiet. <sup>13</sup> For Adam was formed first, then Eve. <sup>14</sup> And Adam was not the one deceived; it was the woman who was deceived and became a sinner. <sup>15</sup> But women will be saved through childbearing—if they continue in faith, love and holiness with propriety.

### 1) United in worship

- Paul expresses his desire to see men praying.
  - It's possible that men, like men today, are content to leave religion to the women and not to pray. However, they are happy to get into religious disputes and arguments.
  - A quick glance at most church would tell you that the women outnumber the men in general.
- A call to prayer is a constant throughout the scriptures, including Paul's letters
  - 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18 Rejoice always, pray continually, give thanks in all circumstances.
  - Philippians 4:6 Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God.
  - Colossians 4:2 Devote yourselves to prayer, being watchful and thankful.
  - Romans 12:12 Be joyful in hope, patient in affliction, faithful in prayer.
- The above are but a few of Paul's calls to prayer. With the scriptures being saturated with calls to prayer it is obvious that prayer is a high priority on God's agenda for us.
  - God waits for you to communicate with Him. You have instant, direct access to God. God loves mankind so much, and in a very special sense His children, that He has made Himself available to you at all times.  
*Wesley L. Duewel*
  - Christ died to reconcile us with the Father and opened the way for us to enter freely into His presence in prayer. The least we can do is enter into His presence in prayer as He so desires us to do.
- It's not only the fact of prayer, but the mode of prayer that's important.
  - ...lifting up holy hands without anger or disputing.
- Lifting up hands in prayer was a Jewish way of praying, which was a sign of approaching God with reverence.
  - Holy hands means that our lives are holy – set apart for God in purity, not touching that which pollutes us.
  - Psalms 24:3-4 Who may ascend the mountain of the LORD? Who may stand in his holy place?  
The one who has clean hands and a pure heart
- Without anger or disputing
  - We cannot approach God when we've got broken relationships from our side.
  - The heart of the Gospel is reconciliation, which is the antithesis of broken relationships
- God hears the prayers of the saints prayed in unity
  - Matthew 18:19 Again, truly I tell you that if two of you on earth agree about anything they ask for, it will be done for them by my Father in heaven.

### 2) Modesty in worship

- Paul specifically addresses the women when he raises the issue of modesty in dress during worship
- While there's nothing sinful about having good smart clothes, a nice hairstyle, and jewelry, overdoing it draws attention to the person and can be a distraction from giving God our wholehearted attention in worship.
- The concept of modesty can vary from culture to culture and so what is acceptable in one culture might be considered immodest in another.
  - In Indian culture women wear saris with their stomachs showing, whilst in other cultures it is immodest for a woman to show her stomach
  - In some cultures, it's modest for women to wear jeans, whilst that's immodest in other cultures.
- The heart of modesty is the question of who you're trying to please when coming to worship – God or man?

- Don't dress up to draw unnecessary attention to yourself that would distract anyone's attention from God during worship
  - Is your dress a portrayal of holy living?
  - Is God pleased with the way you dress?

### 3) The roles of men and women in worship

- Men and women have the same value before God, and are equal in His sight. However, God has assigned them different roles in life.
  - 1 Corinthians 11:3 But I want you to realize that the head of every man is Christ, and the head of the woman is man, and the head of Christ is God.
  - 1 Corinthians 11:7-10 A man ought not to cover his head, since he is the image and glory of God; but woman is the glory of man. For man did not come from woman, but woman from man; neither was man created for woman, but woman for man. It is for this reason that a woman ought to have authority over her own head, because of the angels.
- What is done and said in worship is a matter of authority. The primary authority is given to man, who is under Christ.
  - A man who isn't living in submission to Christ cannot claim spiritual authority over a woman just because he's a man.
  - Neither does authority mean being authoritarian and dominating women.
  - Having authority is a God given order for the sake of responsibility.
- Leadership of the church and the role of teacher is given to the man, not woman.
  - Paul goes back to the creation and fall of man to back up his teaching on this matter
  - 1 Timothy 2:13-14 For Adam was formed first, then Eve. And Adam was not the one deceived; it was the woman who was deceived and became a sinner.
- The matter of women being completely silent in worship and not speaking probably came from women disrupting the worship gatherings to ask questions
  - 1 Corinthians 14:34-35 Women should remain silent in the churches. They are not allowed to speak, but must be in submission, as the law says. <sup>35</sup> If they want to inquire about something, they should ask their own husbands at home; for it is disgraceful for a woman to speak in the church
- If Paul intended women not to minister in the church at all he would not have given the instruction about women praying and prophesying in worship.
  - 1 Corinthians 11:5 But every woman who prays or prophesies with her head uncovered dishonors her head—it is the same as having her head shaved.
- Prophecy is not instructional, but motivational
  - 1 Corinthians 14:3 But the one who prophesies speaks to people for their strengthening, encouraging and comfort.
- Teaching is instructional and comes from authority
  - 1 Timothy 2:12 I do not permit a woman to teach or to assume authority over a man

#### To summarise:

Men are:

- To commit themselves to prayer
- Not to be divisive, but united
- To have roles of authority in the church and at home
- To be the primary teachers of scripture in worship

Women are:

- To be modest
- To recognize God given roles and authority
- To live as godly examples as wives and mothers.