
A Study Guide to 1 Timothy 2:8-15

Part 1: What Is Still Binding?

Consider the following instructions in 1 Timothy 2:1-15. Which ones are binding on us today and which are not? That is, would we be sinning against God if we ignored some of them? In each case, can you explain *why* or *why not*?

1. Entreaties, prayers, supplications and thanksgivings should be made *on behalf of all people*.
2. Entreaties, prayers, supplications and thanksgivings should be made *on behalf of kings*.
3. Entreaties, prayers, supplications and thanksgivings should be made *on behalf of all who are in authority*.
4. Entreaties, prayers, supplications and thanksgivings should be made *that we might live a peaceable and quiet life in all piety and dignity*.
5. I want the men in every place to pray *lifting up holy hands*.
6. I want the men in every place to pray *without anger or arguing*.
7. Women should adorn themselves *with appropriate attire*.
8. Women should adorn themselves *with modesty and temperance*.
9. Women should not adorn themselves *with braids*.
10. Women should not adorn themselves *with gold*.
11. Women should not adorn themselves *with pearls*.
12. Women should not adorn themselves *with fancy clothes*.
13. Women should adorn themselves *with piety toward God*.
14. Women should adorn themselves *with good deeds*.
15. A woman should learn *in quietude*.
16. A woman should learn *in full submission*.
17. I do not permit a woman *to teach or domineer over a man*.
18. A woman should be *in quietude*.

The point of this exercise is to demonstrate that the decisions we make about what is still binding in Scripture often reflect cultural assumptions that we bring to the text. For a closer look at the ancient cultural context of these instructions, see part 2 of this study: "Can You Follow the Logic?"