

## INTRODUCTION

As believers in Jesus Christ, we know that the Lord Jesus is coming back one day. When He comes, He will set everything right. He will judge the world in righteousness, welcoming those who trust in God through Him into eternal life with Him, and sending those who do not believe into the torments of the lake of fire forever.

We Christians do not fear that day, but look eagerly for it to come. Until that day does come, we long for sinners to be saved, as we have been saved, from the wrath of God that is coming on this sinful world, before it's too late. We are grateful to the Lord Jesus from the bottom of our hearts for what He has done for us, for how He has loved us in laying down His own life for us, to pay the penalty for our sins in His death on the cross. We now want everyone we know to follow us, repenting of sins and trusting in God through Jesus Christ. Beyond those we know, we also want the whole world to hear the gospel we have heard, that there is forgiveness of sins from God in the name of Jesus; and we want them not just to hear, but to believe! But what are we supposed to do about it? For you dear sisters, the question more specifically is, what is a Christian woman to do about it?

At the same time, we desire to have a quiet, peaceful life in this world until that day the Lord comes back. We don't want to be troubled by large-scale dangers like wars. We also don't want to be troubled by small-scale dangers like criminal activities. Because we know love, having been loved by God through Jesus Christ, we care not only about ourselves in these things, but about all our fellow men, all our neighbors; we want them to enjoy peace and quiet, also. As to living our lives in righteousness daily, we want to be left alone to do so quietly. As to worshiping the Lord as His churches, meeting on the Lord's Day to worship according to how our own consciences understand the Bible, we want to be able to do so openly and safely. We desire to have our government officials at every level to perform their basic functions faithfully, bearing the sword as God's servants to secure our rights by punishing those who do evil and rewarding those who do good. We certainly do not want the very government officials who tax us to fund their government, supposedly to protect us, to themselves become the enemies of our peace and freedom. But, again, what are we supposed to do about it, to make it be like it should be? For you dear sisters, the question more specifically is, what is a Christian woman do do about it?

As we study our way through 1 Timothy, we come upon answers to these questions. One of the main answers the word of God gives us is that we give thanks and pray for all men, particularly for those in positions of authority in the government. We pray for them with all kinds of prayers to God our Savior. In answer to our prayers, the Holy Spirit goes throughout the whole world, working in the hearts of sinners, producing in them repentance unto life and true saving faith in Jesus Christ. In answer to our prayers, God directs every ruler, causing him to do whatever God's will is for him to do. Some rulers, God even humbles from their pride, that they come to serve not themselves, but the Lord Jesus Christ.

So, we pray for all men everywhere, for kings and all those in authority, that by God's grace, those sinners may be saved, and we may live a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and honesty.

Now, as we pray, whether in the assembly of the church on the Lord's Day, or in our private homes daily, the sinfulness that remains in our flesh makes us susceptible to temptation; we are tempted by the example of the world around us to act sinfully even as we try to pray. Therefore our Lord Jesus has made His will known to us through His apostles by the letters they wrote, so we can hear His will and guard ourselves against those temptations, so that we may pray about these things in all righteousness.

The will of Jesus Christ is that His disciples, especially those who are men, lift up holy hands in prayer, without wrath and doubting, or without anger and disputing. We studied that some time back. Let the men have that admonition always in mind regarding prayer.

The will of Jesus Christ is that His disciples, especially those who are women, ready themselves for prayer in the assembly of the church by adorning themselves. It is wonderfully helpful to see that the practice of women adorning themselves is taught not only by Paul in 1 Timothy 2, but also by Peter in 1 Peter 3; and that it is taught not only for women's conduct in worship, but also for women's conduct in everyday life. Women adorning themselves is connected to the salvation of sinners not only in relation to praying for all men to be saved, but also in relation to living as an example for sinners to see, by which they know the gospel to be true. And women adorning themselves is connected to a life of peace and quiet not only in relation to praying for the government officials, but also in relation to convincing government officials and others that Christians are not evildoers to be punished.

So, it is the will of our Lord Jesus that we adorn ourselves; especially that His disciples who are women adorn themselves. That far we have come together in our study of the Bible in the book of 1 Timothy.

Today we go on to consider what that adornment is. With what are we to adorn ourselves as the disciples of Jesus Christ? How are you Christian women to adorn yourselves, if you are to prepare yourselves to pray for all men, and to live a life that shows men the truth of the gospel of Jesus Christ?

What the Bible records of the life of our Lord Jesus Christ on this earth has very little to say about how He adorned Himself physically. But the gospels are full of the good works He did, and the graces or virtues He displayed. So, adorned with those graces and virtues, He prayed for sinners to be saved, and He lived a life that proved the truth of the gospel He was proclaiming.

Let us hear, then, His will that we follow in His steps. Let Christian women pray, and let them live their daily lives, adorned with modest apparel accompanied by rich graces and virtues.

TEXT

1 Timothy 2:8-15

1 Peter 3:1-6

BODY

**Let Christian women pray, and let them live their daily lives, adorned with modest apparel accompanied by rich graces and virtues.**

- I. Women Are to Adorn Themselves in Modest Apparel
  - A. The Greek word here
    1. most basically: well-arranged or well-ordered
    2. used to mean: becoming, modest, seemly
  - B. The words our translators have used in rendering this in our language
    1. comely - becoming, suitable, decent, proper
    2. modest - restrained by a sense of propriety; moderate, not excessive or extreme or extravagant
    3. respectable - regarded by society to be good, proper, or correct; decent or correct
  - C. This is a very brief instruction, very short on detail
  - D. I do not intend to add details according to my imagination or my preferences
  - E. In coming sessions, I plan for us to look into what the apostles say is *not* becoming in women's adornment
  - F. But Paul's way of putting this to us is to declare the affirmative first, so we are considering this first in the affirmative
  - G. APPLICATION: The main connotation in this word being "suitable" or "proper," be sure you are choosing the right standard for what is proper
    1. the ungodly culture in which you live cannot be trusted to know what is suitable or proper for a woman who fears God
      - a) sometimes the trends or fads of fashion will produce apparel that consists in too much of a good thing
        - (1) hoop skirts in the late 1800s, as Mrs. James Wilder
        - (2) layers of Izod and Polo shirts in the 1980s
      - b) so that women's movement in the performance of their duties is hindered, or so that the expenditure of money on garments is doubled or tripled from what is necessary; the poor then being further impoverished or else embarrassed
      - c) sometimes the trends of fads of fashion will produce apparel that consists in too little of a good thing, so that women's skin is exposed that should be covered
    2. the standard for what is comely or modest or respectable is what godliness demands
      - a) what accords with fear of God
      - b) what accords with the fruit of the Spirit
      - c) what accords with love for God and for other people

Women are to adorn themselves in modest apparel; but along with that modest apparel, as a matter of much greater importance,

## II. Women Are to Adorn Themselves with Graces or Virtues

### A. Understand the old-fashioned terms “graces” and “virtues

1. Webster on “grace”: virtuous or religious affection or disposition...proceeding from divine influence; as faith, meekness, humility, patience, etc.
2. Webster on “virtue”: a particular moral excellence; as the virtue of temperance, of chastity, of charity

### B. See what those graces are, as listed here

#### 1. 1 Timothy 2:9-11

- a) shamefastness, NKJV propriety, ESV modesty
- b) GEN modestie, KJV sobriety, NKJV moderation, ESV self-control
- c) good works
  - (1) this perhaps not properly a grace or virtue
  - (2) but I’m putting it here in this organization

#### 2. 1 Peter 3:2-5

- a) GEN, ESV purity, KJV, NKJV chastity
- b) fear, ESV respect
- c) GEN, KJV meekness, NKJV, ESV gentleness

#### 3. both passages

- a) silence, quiet
- b) subjection, submission, submissiveness

#### 4. you see these graces listed here, but you might not know exactly what is meant by these terms; hopefully in weeks to come we can examine them together, so you will understand them in the character of our Lord Jesus Christ, and so be ready to adorn yourselves with them

### C. See how those graces are described

#### 1. 1 Tim 2:10

- a) as becommeth women that professe the feare of God, women professing godliness
- b) which is proper for women professing godliness, women who profess godliness

#### 2. 1 Pe 3:4a the hidden, the heart man; the hidden man or person of the heart

#### 3. 1 Pe 3:4b

- a) before God a thing much set by
- b) in the sight of God of great price
- c) very precious in the sight of God
- d) of great worth in God’s sight

## CONCLUSION

There is an adornment that is physically necessary for life in this world; it must be done; women must adorn themselves physically; so as to what is outward, external, tangible, temporal, let Christian women adorn themselves in comely, modest, respectable apparel.

But there is an adornment that is of much more importance, a hidden, inward adornment of spiritual and eternal importance, of great worth in the sight of God; so let Christian women adorn themselves with graces, with virtues, as is proper for women professing godliness.

Call to Worship: Revelation 5:9 - Jeremiah

Opening Prayer: Jeremiah

Trinity 149 “Joy to the World”

Scripture Reading: Psalm 146 - Dillon

Trinity 186 “When I Survey the Wondrous Cross”

Sermon

Trinity 206 “Up from the Grave He Arose”

Corporate Prayer: Roel

Benediction: Ephesians 3:20-21