

# Adam's Rib or Women's Lib

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## I. Introduction.

- A. Text: I Timothy 2.
- B. The subject of the passage has been prayer.

## II. The purpose for prayer.

- A. Prayer opens up understanding and enables relationship.
- B. Prayer becomes an instrument for the salvation of all people.

## III. The attitudes for prayer.

- A. Actions symbolized by the lifting of the hands ought to be right actions in prayer.
- B. Attitudes must be without quarrelling or resentment. Men must live what they pray in public.

## IV. Women were to pray with modest dress and proper manner.

- A. Women could pray and prophesy in the church but only with a head covering. (I Corinthians 11)
- B. Paul is not concerned about women's dress, but their heart. However, the way we dress often conveys what our hearts are like.
- C. A woman's impact will arise out of the fact that her life of good deeds will make her acceptable among the congregation.

## V. The role of women in teaching.

- A. Women should be "silent" in church.
  - 1. The word is the same for peaceable.
  - 2. The woman is to learn in a peaceable manner. (II Thessalonians 3)
  - 3. Women are to be learners without a lot of aggressive reaction.
- B. Women should not teach.
  - 1. This is not an absolute prohibition.
  - 2. In other areas, women did teach and were expected to do so with both younger women and men. (Titus, Acts)

3. The key in this passage is to have authority over—the women were not supposed to usurp authority in the church.
4. This does not answer the question of whether a woman should be the pastor.
  - a. In one sense, women have always been pastoring as a shepherd over others.
  - b. In the conventional sense as the final source of authority though, women are not supposed to be pastors or elders.
  - c. There was a plurality of leadership in the early church.
5. Reasons why leadership is denied women (taken from creation not culture).
  - a. Adam was formed before Eve. The male and female ways of leadership are complementary—the male is the initiator and the female is there to support, comfort and complete.
  - b. Woman was deceived and not man—her nature makes her more vulnerable in this area. Women are not given final authority on doctrinal issues.

C. “Women will be saved through childbearing.”

1. It is not a promise that women will be kept safe through childbirth.
2. We are all saved through faith in Christ, not any work, so what does it mean?
3. “Saved” means fulfilled here—finding significance.

**Application questions:**

1. How does Paul characterize prayer? Why is this important?

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2. Should women teach? Defend your answer biblically.

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3. How would you explain Paul’s statement concerning women being silent in the church?

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