

1 Timothy 2:11-12

One of the obvious questions to begin with is: do all the items Paul listed still apply to us today?

If not, which ones no longer apply and why?

If so, why don't we enforce the hairstyle, gold, pearls, and expensive clothing statements on women within our church like we do the not teach or have authority?

If some are cultural items and some are not, who determines which goes on which list?

There are three types of churches that interpret this passage:

1. Include everything on the list.
2. Include nothing on the list.
3. Pick and choose which to include.

Which type of church is correct in their interpretation?

1 Timothy 2:11-12 - Digging deeper

V. 9 begins with the Greek word *hōsautōs* which means likewise/in the same manner and allows one to grammatically reach back into verse 8 and make prayer the subject of v.9.

I want men to pray...

Like wise, I want women to pray...

If we are interpreting this text as directing the worship assembly then, just as in 1 Corinthians 11:5, Paul is directing women how to present themselves when they pray publicly.

The Context of 1 Timothy

Timothy opens up with a very clearly expressed reason for writing the book:

1 Timothy 1:3-7 - As I urged you when I went into Macedonia, stay there in Ephesus so that you may command certain people not to teach false doctrines any longer [4] or to devote themselves to myths and endless genealogies. Such things promote controversial speculations rather than advancing God's work---which is by faith. [5] The goal of this command is love, which comes from a pure heart and a good conscience and a sincere faith. [6] Some have departed from these and have turned to meaningless talk. [7] They want to be teachers of the law, but they do not know what they are talking about or what they so confidently affirm.

What was being taught?

false doctrines, myths, and endless genealogies.

4:3 - they were forbidding people to marry and abstinence from certain foods.

4:7 - reject profane and old wives' fables.

whatever the myths were, they were profane.

6:20 - turn away from godless chatter and opposing ideas of what is falsely called knowledge, ...

The Greek word for knowledge is *gnosis*, and it's from this word we get the word Gnosticism.

A general overview of Gnostic beliefs:

1. Physical is evil; spirit is good.
2. Christ, being perfect, did not have a physical body, he only appeared to have one.
3. Marriage is forbidden though sexual immorality is promoted.
4. Salvation is by your pure spirit escaping from your evil body and ascending to heaven. The means of such escape is 'special knowledge'.
5. Eve is worshipped as a "perfect spirit being" who brought life to Adam.
6. Eve gained knowledge through the Serpent who enlightened man with the True Knowledge
7. Creating more "flesh" by having children is evil.
8. Knowledge of your origins via your family tree is important to salvation; Eve is the origin of all.

Timothy is dealing with some type of heresy. When the book is weighed against early gnostic manuscripts, and their beliefs, it is a high probability and a logical conclusion to see early forms of gnosticism as the heresy.

Gnostics were fascinated by the Genesis account of the Creation and the Fall.

There have been gnostic texts found retelling the story of Adam and Eve.

Eve was cast as a feminine spiritual power and the source of spiritual awakening. She was viewed as “spirit” and Adam as “soul”.

In several gnostic texts Eve precedes Adam and brought life to Adam.

Eve is viewed as a heroine because she desired knowledge.

On top of these thoughts there is Artemis and her temple.