

Study Guide for June 4<sup>th</sup>, 2006. Roles of Men and Women in Worship. I Tim. 2:8-15

Introduction: The question of women's role in the church has been at the forefront of debate for many years. What have been some of the positive and negative results of this?

I. Men should PRAY without . . . ! (I Tim. 2:8)

- A. What is symbolized by the lifting up of holy hands?
- B. How does anger and disputing inhibit true prayer? (See Ps. 66:18, Mt. 5:23-24)
- C. What has helped you work through hard feelings so you can genuinely pray?

II. Women should DRESS MODESTLY with . . . ! (I Tim. 2:9-10)

- A. How does Paul explain this negatively? Or, what does he warn against? WHY?
- B. How does Paul encourage this positively? Or, what does he commend? WHY?
- C. Describe a woman who exhibited spiritual beauty? (See Tit. 2:3-5, I Pet. 3:1-7)

III. Women should LEARN in . . . ! (I Tim. 2:11-15)

- A. What is the manner in which this instruction is to take place? Why is this?
- B. What does Paul specifically prohibit women from doing in the church?
  - 1) Summarize what is revealed about the conflict in the Ephesian church.
    - a) I Tim. 1:4-6    b) I Tim. 4:1-3    c) I Tim. 6:3-5    d) II Tim. 3:6-7
  - 2) Explain Paul's prohibition (vs. 12) in light of this particular conflict.
- C. How does Paul support this prohibition? (vs. 13-14) Why is this important?
- D. What do you think is meant by the words, "But women will be saved through childbearing – if they continue in faith, love, and holiness with propriety."?
- E. What additional light is given by considering I Tim. 5:14 and Tit. 2:3-5?

Conclusion: Much of the debate over women's roles has been contentious. What attitudes and actions do you feel are most needed to avoid division and grow in love?