

Abide in Me

*Mentored by the Master
Discipleship in Real Time*



Volume 10 - Number 24

The Week of May 11, 2025

Shaping Souls

1 Timothy 2:9-15*

When God initiated the story of redemption after the Fall He began with motherhood—through Eve, Sarah, and ultimately, Mary. He is still changing the world through mothers today. Paul’s words in 1 Timothy 2:9–15 are deeply rooted in creation and gospel mission. In a culture that diminished motherhood and confused womanhood (Ephesus), Paul elevates the role of mothers with soul-shaping influence. He calls women to humility, holiness, and hope—especially through the sacred task of raising children in the Lord. This notoriously difficult passage invites us to recover a missional view of motherhood, where the fruit of the womb becomes a means of advancing the Kingdom of God. There’s something deeply redemptive about the way God chose to work through mothers in the story of salvation and continues to do so.

OBSERVATION (*What does the passage say and how does it say it?*)

Before your group meets, read the passage and perform the following prompts:

- Circle and draw a connecting line between some of the contrasts you observe. For instance, *adornment vs. good works*, etc.
- Double underline all the commands you find in this passage.
- Place in brackets the series of connective words: *likewise, but, for, yet, if...*
- In the left margin, label the flow of the passage as you see it:
 - Verses 9-10.
 - Verses 11-14.
 - Verse 15.

⁹ Likewise also that women should adorn themselves in respectable apparel, with modesty and self-control, not with braided hair and gold or pearls or costly attire,
¹⁰ but with what is proper for women who profess godliness—with good works.

¹¹ Let a woman learn quietly with all submissiveness. ¹² I do not permit a woman to teach or to exercise authority over a man; rather, she is to remain quiet. ¹³ For Adam was formed first, then Eve; ¹⁴ and Adam was not deceived, but the woman was deceived and became a transgressor.

¹⁵ Yet she will be saved through childbearing—if they continue in faith and love and holiness, with self-control.

*Obviously, this is a hard passage that has been misused and often weaponized in hurtful ways. Strive to ensure your discussion is biblically-informed, grace-filled, and focused on the high-calling of motherhood.

INTERPRETATION (*What does the passage mean?*)

1. Recalling Sunday's message, how does this passage reflect the cultural confusion in Ephesus (e.g., Artemis worship, false teaching, 1 Tim. 4:3)? How does Paul's vision of womanhood and motherhood contrast with both ancient and modern distortions of femininity?
2. How does Paul contrast outward beauty with inward godliness (vv. 9–10)? What kind of "adorning" pleases God?
3. What are the primary interpretations of the provocative phrase, "saved through childbearing"? Which do you find most compelling biblically and theologically?
4. How does this passage affirm the redemptive value of motherhood and child-rearing?
5. What does it mean that a woman's calling is fulfilled "if they continue in faith, love, holiness, and self-control"? Briefly describe what each virtue means.

APPLICATION *(How does the passage apply to our lives?)*

1. Is motherhood (or spiritual mothering) as it is extolled in this passage something our culture treasures or resists?

2. How can mothers today resist the cultural pressures that devalue their calling and embrace mission-oriented motherhood?

3. For men: How can you honor and support the dignity and calling of the women in your life?

4. Read Psalm 127. How can your home become a launchpad for mission, as Psalm 127 describes—forming, holding, and releasing arrows for God’s kingdom?

5. How do we continue in “faith, love, holiness, and self-control” in our parenting and influence?

Sermon Notes: *Shaping Souls*

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