

I Timothy 2:8-10 – “I will therefore that men pray everywhere, lifting up holy hands, without wrath and doubting. In like manner...women adorn themselves in modest apparel...which is proper for women professing godliness and good works.”

PRAYING IN CHURCH

God intends for men to be leaders when the church meets together for public prayer. The point here is that if men are going to lead in prayer, they should live lives of purity. Lifting up hands was a common posture in the early church. Lifting up hands is a symbol of humility and dependency. It also symbolizes surrender to the Lord. It is hypocritical for a man to publicly lead in prayer if his life isn't pure, and if he is not surrendered to the Lord. When prayers are offered they are to be free from “wrath” (Gr. orge). That word refers to any impulse of anger toward those whom they are praying for or about. The word also means abhorrence or desire for punishment. This is a warning against being judgmental in prayers. Prayers are to be in harmony with God's offer of salvation. Angry, condemning prayers don't represent God. Prayers of mercy do. “Without doubting” means without reasoning or hesitation. Doubting prayers accomplish nothing. It is important to pray boldly, claiming the promises of God. Praying women should be dressed modestly. Women are not to attract attention to outward apparel, but to inward character. The church is a house of prayer. This passage teaches how men and women can make it what it is supposed to be.