

EXCELLENCE IN MINISTRY

Starting Strong—Doing What’s Right in the Work of Ministry

What about Women in the Church?

1 Timothy 2:9–15



LET’S BEGIN HERE

The role of women in the church is a hot issue, best handled with sensitivity and compassion—and maybe a pair of asbestos gloves! This is not because Scripture is controversial but because the role of women in the culture is different from what Scripture teaches about the role of women in the church. So, questions rise like steam from a boiling kettle. What positions should women hold within the church? Can they serve as elders and be ordained to preach? Can women pray in mixed company? Or should they remain quiet altogether? Some say women can serve in the highest office of church leadership. Others muzzle women, treating them as second-class citizens. What does the Bible say?



LET’S DIG DEEPER

1. What about Today’s Woman?

In 1968, a new cigarette brand was introduced and marketed to young, business-savvy women—Virginia Slims. The tagline was “You’ve come a long way, baby.” It’s true, women had made considerable strides at that time, and women’s rights have continued to advance in the generations since. Let’s examine four general areas of change, some positive and some negative.

First, *in the world, women have become liberated more than restrained.*

Second, *on the job, women have become respected more than exploited.*

Third, *around the home, women have become assaulted more than supported.*

Fourth, *at the church, women have become confused about their roles more than informed and affirmed.*



Quotable

Sometimes it’s tough for women in today’s church to know where they fit. That really shouldn’t be.

— Charles R. Swindoll



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2. What Does the Bible Say about Women in Church? (1 Timothy 2:9–15)

When the church takes its cues from the culture, the church becomes culturally irrelevant. It loses its saltiness and its light (Matthew 5:13–16). The church is culturally relevant when the church is countercultural. And few things are more countercultural than the Bible’s take on the role of women in the church.

Several Major Passages Addressing Women in the Church

What’s Expected Regarding a Woman’s Appearance and Behavior (2:9–12)

Why It’s Expected, Based on the Order of Creation and the Issue of Deception (2:13–15)



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LET’S LIVE IT

The subject of a woman’s role in the church will always be controversial. People will always tend to misinterpret and misapply the clear, sensitive teaching of the Bible. So, we need a few clarifying remarks before we end this message.

First, *men, these limitations on a woman’s role in the church are to be respected—not exaggerated, expanded, or exploited.*

Second, *women, your positive response to this teaching helps the church maintain its distinctiveness.*

Women, what, if anything, do you need to change—in your appearance, your attitude, or your actions—to become obedient to Paul’s teaching in 1 Timothy 2:9–15?

Third, *those who take their cues from the world will neither accept nor appreciate this teaching.*



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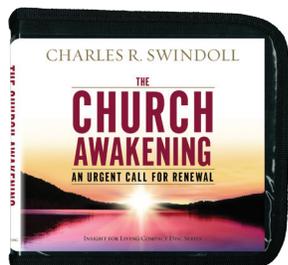
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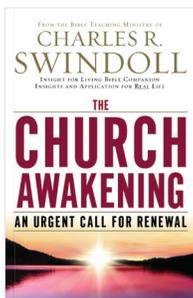
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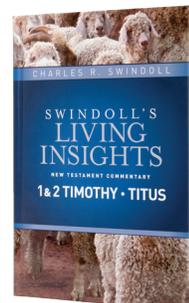
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