

## Repeated Words, Themes, and Ideas

1. Godliness/Ungodliness, Paul wants the Ephesians to exhibit godliness in their prayer life, i.e., to pray for all men, for kings and all who are in authority so that their rulers will create a quiet and peaceful environment where they can live reverent and godly lives, 2:1-2. Thus, Paul wants the men in Ephesus to use their hands in a godly way, to raise them in holy prayer instead of raising them in anger and fighting, 2:8. Likewise, Paul wants the women to exhibit godly behavior by dressing tastefully and modestly instead of provocatively or extravagantly with costly clothing and fancy jewelry. Because a woman who claims to be godly should focus on her character, which is evidenced by her good deeds and not on her outward appearance, 2:9-10. Godly behavior for men and women in the church is men teaching and occupying positions of authority and women acknowledging that authority. This is how God designed the authority structure between men and women, i.e., Adam was created first, then Eve. When men fail in their responsibility to lead, bad things happen, like the fall of man in Genesis 3. If a woman accepts God's authority structure with holiness and self-control, exemplified by accepting her role as mother, then she will be delivered from a desire to teach and have authority over the men in the church, i.e., she will have children to teach and exercise authority over, 2:11-15 (other places this appears: 1:3-4, 5, 6-7, 9-10, 13, 18-19, 19-20).
2. God, God our Savior is well pleased with people who pray for the men who rule over them because He desires all men to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth, 2:1-4. There is only one God and one Mediator between God and men, the Man Christ Jesus, 2:5 (other places this appears: 1:1, 2, 9-11, 12-17).
3. Save/Salvation, God desires all men to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth, 2:4. Women will be saved from a desire to teach and have authority over the men in the church if they submit to God's authority structure, the one He instituted when He created Adam first, then Eve, which means that men are to lead and women are to submit to that leadership. If they acknowledge this authority structure in the church, especially by accepting their role as mothers [since motherhood is the "helper"/submissive role, Genesis 1:28; 2:18], then God will save them through this submissive spirit and by giving them children to teach and have authority over, 2:11-15 (other places this appears: 1:4-5, 12-14, 15, 16, 18-19).
4. Jesus, there is only one Mediator between God and men, the Man Christ Jesus, who gave Himself as a ransom for all, 2:5-6. Paul was appointed as preacher and apostle to the Gentiles and was to preach to them the truth that Jesus Christ was their only Mediator and Savior, 2:5-7. (other places this appears: 1:1, 2-3, 12, 13-14, 15, 16).
5. Faith/Doctrine/Truth/Word, Paul certified that he was speaking the truth and not lying when he said to the Ephesians that he was appointed as the preacher and apostle to the Gentiles who would bring them the truth of who Christ is/was: their only Mediator and Savior, 2:5-7. Paul did not permit a woman to teach God's Word to men in the church because it would violate God's authority structure of the man as the leader and the woman as the follower, which was His clear intent when He created Adam first, then Eve. These spiritual leadership roles were reversed in the Garden of Eden when Adam failed in his responsibility to lead and it plunged mankind into sin, 2:11-14 (other places this appears: 1:2, 3, 4, 5, 5-7, 10, 18, 19).

6. Submission, men are supposed to submit to God's ideal of men as individuals who use their hands to pray instead of to fight and argue, 2:8. Women are supposed to submit to God's ideal of women as individuals who care more about their inward character—exemplified by their good deeds—instead of individuals who only care about their outward appearance and dress provocatively or extravagantly, instead of dressing modestly and tastefully as any woman would who professes to be godly, 2:9-10. A woman is supposed to submit to God's ideal of women in the church by submitting to the male authority ordained by God in the church; they shouldn't seek to teach or have authority over men. If a woman submits to this ideal, she'll be saved from a desire to be in authority over men, especially if she accepts her role as mother since motherhood exemplifies a woman's submission—i.e., a woman who agrees to have children acknowledges her role as the helper [Genesis 1:28; 2:18] who helps her husband fulfill God's command to be fruitful and multiply—and God will also bless her with children whom she can teach and have authority over. Men are supposed to submit to God's ideal of men in the church by accepting their God-given responsibility to lead; they are to be the teachers and the ones in authority. If they fail to lead, as Adam did in the Garden of Eden and plunged the entire human race into sin, then they will force women to take positions of authority, 2:11-15 (other places this appears: 1:3-11, 12-17, 18-20).