

## What is God Saying to Me About God, Life, and Man?

1. God wants you to be thankful and pray for everyone, even the bad guys (2:1-4, cf. 1:20).
2. God wants you to pray for everyone in authority so that they will be saved eternally and so that they will govern God's way, i.e., govern in a manner that will produce an environment which encourages people to live godly, dignified lives (2:1-4).
3. God doesn't just want to save us from hell; He also wants to save us from the world's false idea of the meaning of life, i.e., He wants us to see the truth about the meaning of life and how it should be lived (2:4-6, cf. 1:3-17).
4. In this world there is only one Judge whose opinion matters: the God of the Bible. And there is only one Person who can make you right with that Judge and who has already paid your penalty: Jesus Christ (2:5-6). Therefore, every other god that you bow before (peer pressure, status symbols, people's opinions, etc.) is a pretender to the throne before whom you should not be bowing.
5. There's a proper demeanor that both men and women are to exhibit in the church: men should not have an angry or argumentative posture, especially when praying. Women should not dress provocatively or extravagantly but modestly and tastefully; it's OK to dress up, but a woman's focus should be on her godly character not her outward appearance (2:8-10).
6. If you profess to be a Christian by appearance, word or deed, then you should act like it (2:9-10).
7. When it comes to the leadership of the church, God holds men responsible to take the positions of authority and the women are to respect that authority (2:11-14).
8. God does not permit women to teach the Word of God or to have authority over the men in the church and His reasons have nothing to do with ability, education, culture or any such thing. His reasons go all the way back to the beginning when He created the man and the woman: "Adam was formed first, then Eve," i.e., the man is to be in the position of leadership and the woman is to follow and respect that leadership. When this spiritual authority structure is not followed, things can go very wrong as they did in the Garden of Eden when Adam failed in his responsibility to lead and protect and thus plunged the entire human race into sin, death and destruction (2:11-14).
9. When things fall apart in the church, God holds the men responsible not the women: yes, God calls women to submit to the male authority in the church, but if men fail to lead, then they will create an authority vacuum that women may be tempted to fill (2:11-14).
10. God tells women that He will protect them from a desire to lead and have authority over the men in the church through motherhood. But it's not motherhood that saves them; it's accepting what motherhood represents: a willingness to submit to male authority (2:11-15, cf. Genesis 1:28; 2:18).