

OPERATION FIG LEAVES

We divided (1 Tim.2:1-15) into two sections for study.

- 1 Tim 2:1-8 The Spiritual Role of Christian men in the church.
- 1 Tim 2:9-15 The Spiritual Role of Christian women in the church.

We divided (1 Tim 2:9-15) into four parts for study.

- **1 Tim 2:9-10 Clothing** **Operation Fig Leaves.**
- 1 Tim 2:11-13 Creation Operation Divine Chain of Command.
- 1 Tim 2:14 Culpability Operation Cosmos Diabolicus (CD) Deception.
- 1 Tim 2:15 Curse Operation Divine Deliverance

<p>Today's lesson will introduce five aspects of Operation Fig Leaves taken from our lesson text.</p>
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1. Paul used the comparative adverb, hosautos [likewise], to introduce the Spiritual Role of Christian Women in the Church.

“Likewise” is a reference back to boulomai (p.m.ind.1ps) [I want] in 1 Tim.2:8. Paul is saying that he is as passionate about Christian women’s role in the church as he is about the Christian men’s role.

2. Christian women of Church of Ephesus were apparently dressing for worldly approval and fads without consideration of their witness for Christ to unbelieving women.

The feminist of the world would have a problem with Paul’s recommendations but spiritually advancing women believers want to hear Paul’s explanation of the roles of outer beauty and inner beauty in the Christian Way of Life (CWL).

Paul is not opposed to outer physical beauty but not at the expense of inner spiritual beauty.

The secret is to have both working in unison as a witness of new birth life in Christ to the world.

3. Paul was in complete agreement with Peter’s statement in (1 Pet.3:1-6) and (1 Tim.2:9-15).

Peter: (1 Pet.3:3-4) “Your adornment must not be merely external – braiding the hair, and wearing gold jewelry, or putting on dresses; but let it be the hidden person of the heart, with the imperishable quality of a gentle and quiet spirit, which is precious in the sight of God.”

Paul: (1 Tim 2:9-10) “Likewise, I want women to adorn themselves with proper clothing, modestly and discreetly, not with braided hair and gold or pearls or costly garments, but rather by means of good works, as is proper for women making a claim to godliness.”

There are areas where Christian women conduct themselves differently than Christian men in the world and vice versa.

4. Both Paul and Peter are saying that clothes should reflect the inner spiritual beauty of the soul.

In our lesson text, Paul used specific Greek words to describe the importance of clothes and cosmetics - “with (en+inst of manner) proper clothing (kosmos katastole).”

Paul used these four Greek words to reflect inner spiritual beauty

- Modestly (aidos) and discreetly (sophrosune)
- Good works (agathos ergon)
- Godliness (theosebeia) NOT (eusebeia) (1 Tim 2:2)

(Prov.23:7a) “For as he thinks within himself, so is he.”

This is not a command but merely a suggestion by Paul to the spiritual advancing Christian women in the church. Paul seems to be suggesting to the spiritual advancing Christian woman to dress to please her personal taste as well as husband’s and especially her Lord but NOT the world.

5. Clothing and cosmetics (kosmeo/ p.a.infin) [adorn] are often used on the outside to cover-up the turmoil and chaos that is on the inside.

This is the danger of Operation Fig Leaves of using clothes as an outer covering to disguise and cover-up spiritual issues in Christian Way of Life (CWL). Clothes do not cover the soul of the inner person only the body of the outer person (Matt.6:25, 28-33).

(Isa.61:10a) “I will rejoice greatly in the Lord, My soul will exult in My God, for He has clothed me with His garments of salvation, He has wrapped me with a robe of righteousness.”

The doctrinal principle that is important to take away from this lesson is that external and cosmetic solutions will not resolve internal (Old Man Cosmos Diabolicus) spiritual problems of the soul. (Eph.4:22-24; Rom.12:2; 1 John 1:9 and Gal.5:16-17).

Paul’s theology goes back to **Operation Fig Leaves** of Adam and Eve (1 Tim.2:9-15; Gen.3:1-11) – Next Sunday.