

I. Why do we worship on Wednesdays?

- A. There is no commandment that we must meet on Wednesdays for Bible classes or worship.
- B. However, we do have the examples of the early Christians that show that they spent much time together on days other than the first day of the week. (**Acts 2:46**)
- C. Not every local church has service on Wednesday night. I have seen some who meet on Tuesday night, Thursday night, or not at all. It is up to the local church on if and when it will come together during the week.

II. What does the Bible say about modesty?

- A. The Apostles Paul and Peter write about this idea of modesty in a few places and it tends to center around the idea of humility. Keep in mind that humility begins in the heart.
- B. In **I Timothy 2:9-10**, Paul focuses on the actions of the ladies within the church.
 1. He wants to be dressed in proper clothing that is modest and discreet.
 2. This idea of being modest and discreet means that they are not drawing attention to themselves.
 3. A person can draw attention to themselves through their clothing in a couple of different ways.
 - a) They can draw attention to themselves through cultural/social immodesty.
 - They can wear clothes that flaunt their social status. They might be wealthy and they want people to know that they have money because that might bring them notoriety and respect.
 - b) They can draw attention to themselves through sexual immodesty.
 - They wear clothes that draw attention to certain body parts. This could be done through a lack of clothing, extremely tight clothing that shows the form of the body, or something else on the clothing that draws attention to that particular part of the body. The attention paid to them for their clothing could be exactly what a person is trying to get. That attention could very well lead to more ungodliness.
 4. Paul says that this type of thing isn't proper for a woman who is claiming godliness.
- C. In **I Peter 3:1-4**, Peter writes about something very similar.
 1. He encourages the wives to not allow their adornment to be merely external, but for them to have some substance on the inside.
 2. Many put their full confidence on their outward appearance and they want people to take notice of them. Again, that can happen in the two ways that are mentioned above.
- D. This idea is summed up for all people in **I Peter 5:5-6**. Peter wants all people to clothe themselves with humility. Humility should be a goal for all Christians and that humility can be shown through what we choose to wear.
 1. Modesty ties into this thought because being modest means to have shamefacedness or bashfulness as part of your character.
 2. A modest person does not try to draw unnecessary or bad attention to their bodies or some sort of status through what they wear.
 3. A person who is lacking in modesty wears clothes that flaunt either their status or attractiveness. They want other peoples attention to be on them.
 4. This is not the type of person God wants for His people to be like. That immodest person takes the focus off of God and puts it squarely on themselves.
 5. The Christian humbles himself or herself before God so that He (not others) will exalt them at the proper time.

III. If women are to “remain silent” in the assembly then how can they sing? Can they say “amen” to prayers, speak in Bible classes, etc?

- A. Main verses under consideration are **I Corinthians 14:34,35** and **I Timothy 11ff**.
- B. I personally don't like dealing with **I Corinthians** with this matter because of the spiritual gifts aspect. There are just a lot of things going on in these chapters (**11-14**) that cause a lot of questions so I'd rather just deal with **I Timothy 2**. The one point that is clear though I think is that there is to be some sort of distinction in who does what when the church is assembled together in one place for the purpose of worship. (**I Cor. 14:26**)

- C. The crux of this issue with women in worship has to do with who has the right to authority and leadership within the church.
1. Paul teaches that the woman is to take a role of submissiveness. (**I Tim. 2:11,12**)
 2. They are not to take over a role of authority or leadership within the church. They are not to take the man's leadership.
 3. The reasoning for this is given within the text. (**I Tim. 2:13,14**) Adam was formed first, and Eve sinned first. Because of these unchangeable facts, women occupy the role of submission.
- D. With this in mind, I'll give you these thoughts.
1. Is a woman hijacking the authority of a man when she sings with the church? I think the answer is no. However, if she tries to overpower others with her voice in order to show off or draw attention to herself, then I believe she would be out of place.
 2. In regards to Bible class, when we have separate classes the church is not together as a whole. To me, women then have the opportunity to make comments, but again, she is not to take over the leading of the class or overtake the man's authority. Just answering a question or making a comment doesn't do that. However, a woman could be guilty of taking over the authority of man if she hijacked the class and began directing the direction of the class by her questions and/or comments. She would be taking the class by the horns and doing what she wants to with it and that would not be appropriate for a woman who is to be submissive.
 3. Is the woman who says "amen" at the end of the prayer taking over the leadership and authority of the man? That's a question that I'm sure many would want to think long and hard about, but it is a question that needs to be answered. I'm sure many women here and other places just wouldn't feel comfortable with it, and that is completely ok and I respect that. But that was the question so I want to give us all some things to think about in regards to that subject.
- E. Bottom line is this. God has given an order of leadership. Men are to lead and women are to be submissive. It all comes back to who has the authority for leadership and does an action take over the leadership and authority of another.

IV. What does the Bible say about Christians who commit suicide?

- A. Honestly, not much at all is said about Christians and suicide specifically.
- B. However, there are some cases of suicide within the Bible and they were all carried out by wicked men.
1. Abimelech, **Judges 9**.
 2. King Saul fell on his own sword, **I Sam. 31**.
 3. Ahithophel hanged himself, **II Sam. 17**.
 4. Zimri burned himself alive, **I Kings 16**.
 5. Most famously, Judas hanged himself after he betrayed Jesus to the Jews. **Matthew 27**.
- C. There are some principles that can help us in dealing with the issue of suicide.
1. Murder, the unlawful taking of life, has always been forbidden by God. Life is sacred because we are made in the image of God. (**Gen. 9:6**)
 2. Often, suicide is committed when one has lost all hope and one does not want to endure pain and suffering. However, many people of God have stood strong in the face of adversity and not taken the way out of suicide.
 - Job suffered greatly, but he pressed on even when his wife encouraged him to end it all. (**Job 2,6**)
 - Jesus, Himself, suffered greatly at the hands of sinners, but He didn't
 - Early Christians suffered for their faith and they saw the value in suffering.**(Rom. 5:3,4; James 1:2-4; I Peter 1:6,7)**
 - Paul wanted to die, but he put the needs of others first. (**Phil. 1:21-24**) He chose to endure suffering instead of suicide in order to show the power of Christ (**II Cor. 4:8-12**) and provide a good example for others (**II Cor. 1:6-11**).
- D. We must not give up hope and cut this life short on our own initiative. We do not know what tomorrow may bring us and we do not know who we could help in this life by continuing on. Suicide is not the answer. We must always turn to God for strength whenever our faith begins to fail.