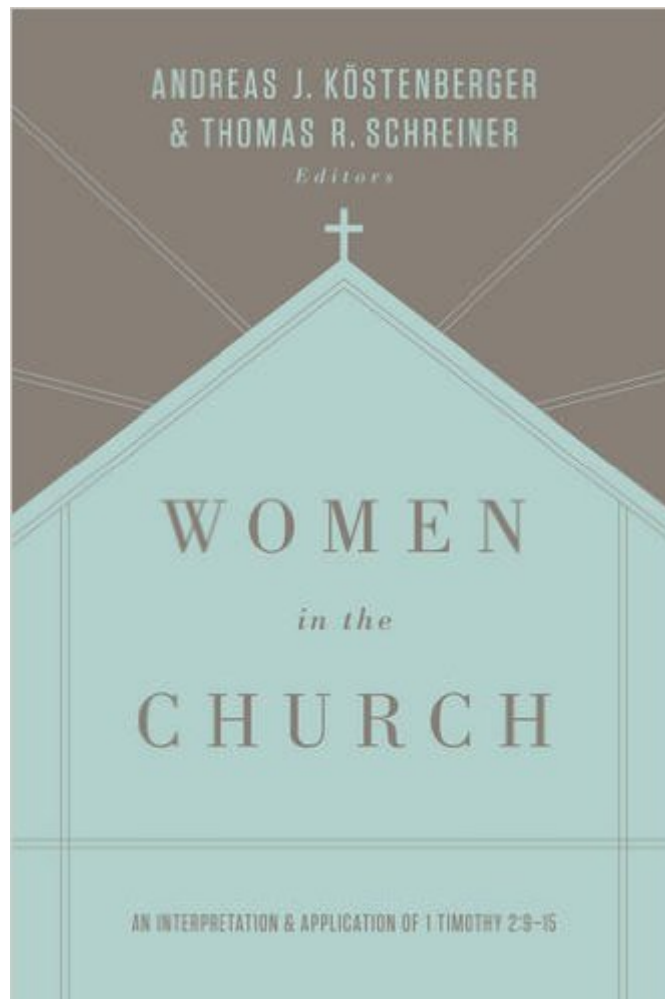


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# Women In The Church (Third Edition): An Interpretation And Application Of 1 Timothy 2:9-15



## Synopsis

The role of women in the church is highly debated, with Christians on all sides using Paul's teachings in 1 Timothy to justify their positions. Now in its third edition, this classic book edited by Andreas Köstenberger and Thomas Schreiner offers a robust exegesis of 1 Timothy 2:9-15, looking at the passage's background, syntax, grammar, and enduring significance. Featuring updated essays and fresh contributions based on the latest research—including an in-depth discussion of the meaning of the phrase "exercise authority"—this volume stands as the most comprehensive exploration of this contested passage to date.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Crossway recently published the third edition (1995, 2005, 2016) of *Women in the Church: An Interpretation & Application of 1 Timothy 2:9-15* by editors Andreas J. Köstenberger & Thomas R. Schreiner. This is not a collection of articles from differing positions; to the contrary, it intentionally and thoroughly espouses a complementarian position by all contributors. This volume focuses more on attempts to thwart the ever-increasing egalitarian position rather than provide sufficient and convincing arguments for its own. (I've read elsewhere that the second edition was better at arguing *for* rather than *against*, but I have not read that edition) I believe the volume as a whole fails to convince, as is often stated about opposing positions, often using *probably*, *likely*, and *most likely* in reference to its own arguments when denouncing other positions that do the same. An inherent problem in these varying hermeneutics is a lack of verifiable

absolutes; the complementarian position here goes with a majority rules and ignores exceptions when trying to understand the Greek texts, using history only when suitable for its needs while chastising opposing positions for doing the same. There is much focus on single words & phrases in 1 Timothy 2:9-15 without properly addressing the whole of Scripture and its intended trajectory. Appealing to a plain sense reading of verse 13, it is assumed that there is an intended creation order of male authority and female submission (are we also to assume this order in the new heavens and new earth?), and therefore no reason to address the whole of Scripture.

Kostenberger and Schreiner have provided a significant update in the 3rd edition of *Women in the Church: An Interpretation and Application of 1 Timothy 2:9-15*. This edition includes a brand new essay by Al Wolters on the Greek word *authentein*, which is a crucial word to define in order to understand the meaning of 1 Timothy 2:9-15. Wolters has been engaged in cutting-edge research on the meaning of the word for the past decade, and anyone doing serious work on this passage will need to consult this new essay. Denny Burk has also provided a brand new essay in this volume. His essay discusses the different approaches to the translation of this passage that have been taken, especially analyzing the various shifts that have taken place in the NIV 1984 and TNIV 2002 and the TNIV 2005 and NIV 2011. This essay will provide helpful background information for readers of the English Bible as well as good scholarly discussion for students of the Greek New Testament. Many of the other essays in the 3rd edition contain significantly updated and reworked material. Kostenberger's chapter includes an examination of the syntax of verse 12: "I do not permit a woman to teach or to exercise authority over a man" (ESV). He includes extensive research on syntactic parallels in both Scripture and ancient Greco-Roman literature that continues to undergird his conclusion that the two verbs "teach" and "exercise authority" cannot be merged into a single idea that is more restrictive than either word would be separately (for example, "seizing authority to teach a man"). The book concludes with a brand-new virtual round-table discussion with many familiar names such as Rosaria Butterfield, Gloria Furman, Trillia Newbell, and Darrin Patrick.

Kostenberger has pulled together a handful of respected scholars, and has invited them to tear apart this often-controversial subject, and then has encouraged them to put it back together under the authority of scripture. And, that they have done. The contributors took the task to heart, and dug deep to the roots of the etymology of the words that surround the subject of women in the church, with a particular focus on the passage found in 1 Timothy 2:9-15. There were several times that I

found myself wishing I had some background knowledge of Greek as I waded through the pages. I think that a cursory level of Greek language orientation would be very helpful in digesting this book. But, it's not completely necessary; with a bit of patience (something I lack sorely of and had to force myself to be in reading this), the text is readable and understandable by a plain jane average layperson like myself. But just because I understood it, didn't always mean that I liked what I read. But liking something, and knowing that something is correct, is two different things. They backed up their thesis extremely well; the scriptural truth of their conclusions were solid. But as a single, divorced former pastor's wife who is involved in (and loves) her local Southern Baptist church body, and who grew up in an extremely conservative, traditional Southern Baptist environment, but who struggled against that as a teen and as an adult--and who now leans toward reformed theology but still harbors a bit of rebelliousness at times--my default mode is to balk at some of this. However, I recognize that this balking is out of sinful pride, the vast majority of times I experience it.

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