

The meaning of ἀθεντεῖν: Some considerations for 1 Tim 2:12.

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Introduction

The word, ἀθεντεῖν, is located only once in the NT at 1 Tim 2:12, and resides at the center of the debate over whether or not women should preach in churches. It is not located at all in the LXX, making this word a difficult *hapax legomenon* indeed. The negative and positive senses of this word are typically appealed to where the negative meanings are appealed to on the egalitarian side, and the positive senses are appealed to on the complementarian side of the debate. Yet the precise meaning of the word is unclear at best using the typical lexical and theological resources available to the exegete. Also, some interpreters rely on the meaning of cognate nouns to support their understanding of the meaning of this verb, while others avoid this method. This paper will not assume any particular advantage either way and will proceed to overturn every stone.

Lexical Information

1. Meanings for the verb
2. Meanings for the noun
3. Meanings for the adjective
4. Meanings for the adverb

Etymology

1. One root
2. Two separate roots

Corpus Study

Examples

1. Eur. IA 1189-90
2. Sib. Ora. 8.307-309
3. Eur., Supp., 442

Reflection

Another Example

1. Bas., Ep., 92

Conclusion