

Here's a helpful study for understanding how language is used (in Greek or English or whatever). May we always handle the word of God accurately. (2 Timothy 2:15)

Notice the “not... but...” (grammatical) construction in 12 Bible examples:

Matt. 10:34 – I did **not** come to bring peace **but** a sword.

Matt. 20:28 – The Son of Man came **not** to be served **but** to serve.

Mark 9:37 – Whoever receives me, receives **not** me **but** him who sent me.

John 12:44 – Whoever believes in me, believes **not** in me **but** in him who sent me.

John 1:13 – Who were born, **not** of blood nor of the will of the flesh nor of the will of man, **but** of God.

John 6:27 – Do **not** labor for the food that perishes, **but** for the food that endures to eternal life.

John 11:4 – This sickness is **not** unto death, **but** for the glory of God.

Acts 5:4 – You have **not** lied to men **but** to God.

Romans 8:9 – You are **not** in the flesh **but** in the Spirit, if indeed the Spirit of God dwells in you.

Clearly, these are *not prohibiting or denying* the first item; they are emphasizing or prioritizing the *second*.

With that point in mind, we can understand the following passages:

1 Corinthians 1:17 – Christ did **not** send me to baptize **but** to preach the gospel.

1 Timothy 2:9-10 – Women should adorn themselves in respectable apparel, with modesty and self-control, **not** with braided hair and gold or pearls or costly attire, ¹⁰ **but** with what is proper for women who profess godliness--with good works.

1 Peter 3:3-4 – Do **not** let your adorning be external – the braiding of hair and the putting on of gold jewelry, or the clothing you wear – ⁴ **but** let your adorning be the hidden person of the heart with the imperishable beauty of a gentle and quiet spirit, which in God's sight is very precious.