**1 Timothy: 2:1-15 – Paul gives Timothy instructions for the Church.**

As was stated in the opening of Chapter 1, Paul is laying out the blueprint for Timothy who has taken over as a young pastor in the church of Ephesus. Chapter 1 opens with instructions against false teachers and laying a firm foundation on the truth. As Paul continues to write he goes on to give general instruction to Timothy regarding issues which have risen to the surface in the church. As pastors we know there is no such thing as a perfect church because it is full of imperfect people. But thanks be to God we have a perfect Lord who gives us instruction on how we can practice spiritual discipline in our lives and be a better bride (The Church) for the bridegroom (Jesus).

Everyone studying this letter read **1 Timothy 2:1-15** on your own. Then if you are in a group setting, have someone read it out loud.



**Observation:** What do you see?

1. What stands out in this chapter as being important?
2. Are there any comparisons or contrasts that stand out in the chapter?
3. Key words or phrases that are used?
4. Prayer had become an issue for the church in Ephesus, what happens when a church stops praying?
5. Paul speaks of distinct roles for men and women in the church. Why is this a hard truth for many Christian leaders to accept?

**The Need for Prayer – vv 1-8**

Imagine having the blueprints and supplies to start building a home. You get everything laid out ready to start working when you reach for your saw only to find out it’s not there. As a matter of fact, you don’t have any tools on you. How do you build the home? This is what it is like when you try to build the house of God and our life without prayer. As leaders in the church of Jesus Christ we need to be even more focused in praying for the sheep. Prayer is a spiritual discipline that allows us to build upon the truth and combat the false teacher Paul speaks of in Chapter 1.

** *Helpful Notes:*** **OVERVIEW OF 1 TIMOTHY 2:1-8:** Paul starts by urging Timothy to pray. He uses four specific words in describing prayer:

1. **Supplications:** Praying to God on the basis of a need
2. **Prayers**: The act of addressing God
3. **Intercessions**: Prayers on behalf of someone’s need
4. **Thanksgivings**: Prayers lifting praise and thanksgiving to God

Paul wanted the focus of the church’s prayer in Ephesus to be for the lost souls who needed to hear the Gospel (v. 3-4). The church had stopped praying as the false teachers had convinced some that believing in Jesus alone wasn’t enough, but they needed to convert to Judaism and abide by their customs and religious regulations in order to be truly saved. Some were buying into this heresy.

 Why does Paul ask Timothy to pray first for the Kings and Leaders? (See verse 2-3)

Paul speaks of the role of the church in public:

- Peaceful: This speaks of the absence of INTERNAL disturbances

- Quiet: This speaks of the absence of EXTERNAL disturbances

- Godly: This speaks of man’s behavior and attitude before GOD

- Dignified: This speaks of man’s holy behavior before MEN

How does prayer help us in sharing Christ with the lost?

I was traveling for my job and had some free time to myself. I was tired and wanted to go see a movie at the theater. As I was walking in the theater, I saw a man talking to a group of individuals who were teaching him false doctrine. I kept walking but the Holy Spirit spoke to my Spirit and told me I needed to speak with this man. I was hesitant at first because I wanted to rest, but before I bought the movie ticket, I prayed and asked God to help me to do His will and prayed for the man to hear the Gospel. I went back outside and began to talk with the man. After a couple of hours together he repented and confessed his faith in Jesus!

* **Christians are to pray for rulers and leaders to be saved (vs. 2)**
* **Christians are to pray for rulers and leaders so we can be free to live in obedience to Christ in peace (vs. 2-3)**
* **Christians are to pray for the lost because God desires for none to be lost (vs. 4)**
* **Christians are to pray for the lost because many are deceived, and Jesus is the only way to be saved (vs. 5-6)**
* **Christians need to pray for lost because we are different from the false teachers (vs. 7)**
* **Christians should pray without anger (or holding a grudge) and without distraction (v. 8)**

*“I would sooner bring one sinner to Jesus Christ than unravel all the mysteries of the divine Word, for salvation is the one thing we are to live for.” – Charles Spurgeon*

**Read 2:9-15 - The Role of Women in the Church**

As created beings of our great God, we must understand and accept that God has the right to do with His creation as He pleases. We accept this in faith believing that God knows what is best for us and His church. A major issue in the world is the role of women verse men. This has affected the church as well. But if both men and women study God’s Word it is clear that God has created man and woman equally in His image. But also that God has given both man and woman different roles and responsibilities. This pertains to life as well as the various functions of the church.

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**Interpretation – Ask a Question:** What’s the authors main intent or purpose?

1. Paul describes the appearance of women in church in verses 9-10. He uses the words modesty and self-control. **What was Paul protecting the church against?**
2. In verse 11 Paul says a woman must be silent and submissive while learning. It is important to understand that God does not state that women can’t learn. In many cultures at those times women were seen as barely human and could not be educated. Rather women must not become a distraction by trying to overstep the authority of the Pastor or Elder who is preaching or teaching. Many would see verse 12 as controversial in today’s world. **Does God’s word ever change? Does this verse mean the same today as it did almost 2000 years ago? Can women teach at all?**
3. Verses 13-15 are not stating that women cannot exercise authority over men because of what Eve did in the garden. Rather, this is a picture of what happens when men and women choose to ignore the roles God designed them for. Eve left Adam’s protection and ignored his headship. This left her vulnerable, and she fell under Satan’s deception. Adam is ultimately to blame for the fall as he chose to disobey rather than be deceived.
4. It is the place for the man to be in the role of Pastor and Elder. Not because a woman is less than a man, but rather because these are the roles God has designed. This does not mean women cannot teach.
* Women can teach other women – Titus 2:3-5
* Women can teach children – 2 Timothy 1:5 & 3:15
* She can teach men outside of church – Acts 18:26 (*Important to note that this was a husband and wife team. There is no scriptural evidence of a woman discipling a man on her own.)*

**Instructions for the Church**

Be in prayer.

Understand that God loves and views us equally. This does not change because he has designed us with different roles.

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**Application – Put into practice**

• **Always be Praying** – There is an old saying, “A lot of prayer, a lot of power. A little prayer, a little power. No prayer, no power.

**• Accept your roles and glorify God** – The Kokia Cookei is the rarest tree in the world. There were only three found in existence when it was discovered in Hawaii. It only can be found there and that is where its flowers can be seen. It doesn’t grow anywhere else but blooms where it is planted. The point is that no matter your role, if you embrace it, you can bring God glory by blooming in it right where you are planted.



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