

1 Timothy 2

Intro:

- What is Paul's reason for writing to Timothy?
 - *Paul wants to instruct Timothy on how the "household" of God should be conducted (1 Timothy 3:14-15).*

Read 1 Timothy 2:1-7

- What is the most important task that a church pastor has?
- What is the importance of prayer in the Church?

In one survey, many pastors were asked "What is the most important thing that you do?" About 1% of them included "prayer" in their top 5 answers. The moment that we think our skills and abilities can do more than God's, we are in danger of building our own Kingdom instead of His.

- What is the importance of praying for authorities and leaders?
- How can society change when we pray for our authorities and leaders?
- What does it look like to live in a way that says "I believe God can produce more through my prayers than I can do on my own?" Explain.

Read 1 Timothy 2:8-10

Imagine this... Five minutes after you take a test, you get an email that your professor sent to your entire class. The email says that there will be no make-ups for the test, followed by exclamations and angry emojis. What can you infer from this? You can infer that a classmate, who probably missed the test, asked the professor if there would be a make-up opportunity. Similarly, it is important to remember that Paul is addressing a group of people, and you can infer the behavior of the Ephesian churches based on Paul's instructions to Timothy on how to deal with them.

- What can you infer about the men in the Ephesian churches based on these verses?
- What can you infer about the women in the Ephesian churches based on these verses?

The men were angry and disputing. Anger and disunity are some of the first signs that the people are not led by God. They were likely arguing over the myths and endless genealogies (1:3-4). The women apparently were dressing immodestly, likely for the public and to be seen promiscuously by men (5:2, 5:11).

- What were the men placing their identity in? What about the women?

Read 1 Timothy 2:11-15

- What are your immediate thoughts when reading this? Do any problems arise for you?
- If the answer was “yes” to the previous question: What do you do when you have tension or disagreement with Scripture?

Keep in mind that we can infer things about the specific churches based on what Paul is saying, but we also have to be open to receive timeless truths.

- What can we infer about the Ephesians churches based on verses 11-13? (Note: the word for “assume authority” suggests aggressive overstepping or domineering)

Paul is in favor of women teaching and having positions of authority (Titus 2:3-5, Acts 18:26). However, as God has appointed the husband to be the head-leader of the family-household (Ephesians 5:22-33), He has also appointed man to be the head-leader of the church-household. Therefore, we can infer that the Ephesian women were aggressively asserting themselves into this place.

- In Genesis 3, Eve was deceived by the serpent and then brought Adam into being deceived too. How do we see that same story played out here in the Ephesian church?

**See “Further Optional Study” at the bottom for more comments.*

- What does Paul mean in verse 15? (Hint: Remove your “Christian-ese” language while interpreting it. Also, read 1 Timothy 5:11-14 for more context.)

When we think of “saved,” we usually think of salvation. However, many times “saved” means its original definition: to rescue or to preserve from danger. We know the danger that many Ephesian Christian women encountered: idleness and promiscuity. So how does bearing children save them from that? Many parents today say about their kids “If they are too busy involved in extracurriculars, then they are too busy to get into trouble.” Paul is saying a similar thing, that focusing on the responsibilities to bear children and to take care of household duties will rescue the Ephesian women from their temptations to have immature lifestyles.

Further Optional Study

- Notes on 1 Timothy 2:11-15
 - One popular belief is that this is referring to the Ephesian women’s inability to read and receive education at the time. Consider Eve. Why was she easily deceived? She was not in a proper place to fully understand God’s command because she received her command from Adam, not from God Himself, and she showed evidence of misunderstanding some of the instructions (compare Gen 2:16-17 to Gen 3:3). Similarly, the Ephesian women likely couldn’t read or receive proper education, so they are not in a place to speak on behalf of God properly and lead the people. Other views include the Ephesian women being like Eve because they are overstepping into an authority that was not appointed to them

(Eve wanting to “be like God” and the Ephesian women wanting to act as head leadership of the church). Other views suggest that Adam gave improper instruction to Eve and she was deceived, so also the Ephesian men and teachers had false beliefs that they were passing along to and therefore deceiving the women.

Concluding Questions:

- What does it look like for God’s household, specifically in your life, to be defined by prayer?
- How would someone’s life look different if it were defined by prayer?
- How might a life of prayer change the situation of the Ephesian men and women inferred in verses 8-10?
- Like the Ephesian men and women in verses 8-10, where do you seek identity outside of Christ?
- How would you like to see a change shift in your city/region?

Application:

- Take some time to pray for the authorities in your life: in politics, your workplace, your church, etc.