

1 Timothy

Week 2 - Chapter 2

Pray for your time together in God's Word!

? Can you think of a time when someone's unexpected behavior changed your impression of them for the better?

1 Timothy 2:1-8 (NIV)

¹ I urge, then, first of all, that petitions, prayers, intercession and thanksgiving be made for all people— ² for kings and all those in authority, that we may live peaceful and quiet lives in all godliness and holiness. ³ This is good, and pleases God our Savior, ⁴ who wants all people to be saved and to come to a knowledge of the truth. ⁵ For there is one God and one mediator between God and mankind, the man Christ Jesus, ⁶ who gave himself as a ransom for all people. This has now been witnessed at the proper time. ⁷ And for this purpose I was appointed a herald and an apostle—I am telling the truth, I am not lying—and a true and faithful teacher of the Gentiles.

? How do you think petitions, prayers, intercession and thanksgiving lead to a “quiet life?”

? In what sense is your life more quiet after prayer?

? Paul says to petition, pray, intercede, and give thanks for **all people**. Which of these instructions would you find most difficult to carry out and why?

? How is Paul's instruction to pray indiscriminately (ie “for all people”) a reflection of God's character?

? What do you think is the purpose behind praying for government leaders (verse 2)?

? What types of prayer might this require?

? How should we view this in light of the fact that Paul lived under a government that didn't recognize, and later oppressed, his religious beliefs?

? Verses 5 and 6 speak of Christ as a mediator. How does Jesus act as a mediator between us and God?

? How should our standing before God, through Christ's mediation, drive us to pray for the leaders in our family/community/country?

? Who are the leaders in your life you can be praying for?

In his letters, Paul would often speak to specific issues affecting particular communities of believers. 1 Timothy 2 seems to be such a passage. When we read through a passage like this we should remind ourselves that the local church was wrestling with specific (though sometimes unclear) sin issues. However, this does not mean this passage of scripture has expired. On the contrary, we sometimes need to work extra hard to understand the gospel's truths that apply to all people.

1 Timothy 2:8-15 (NIV)

⁸ Therefore I want the men everywhere to pray, lifting up holy hands without anger or disputing. ⁹ I also want the women to dress modestly, with decency and propriety, adorning themselves, not with elaborate hairstyles or gold or pearls or expensive clothes, ¹⁰ but with good deeds, appropriate for women who profess to worship God.

¹¹ A woman should learn in quietness and full submission. ¹² I do not permit a woman to teach or to assume authority over a man; she must be quiet. ¹³ For Adam was formed first, then Eve. ¹⁴ And Adam was not the one deceived; it was the woman who was deceived and became a sinner. ¹⁵ But women will be saved through childbearing—if they continue in faith, love and holiness with propriety.

? How might our behavior, as believers, affect others' views of God?

? What are some examples (either from your personal experience or culturally) that the gospel has been either furthered or hindered by the actions of believers?

? How would a Christian adorn themselves with good deeds, and why does Paul find this more appropriate?

? Verse 15 is an often debated verse in Scripture for which numerous interpretations have been put forth. What do we do when we encounter difficult passages of Scripture?

? How does community play a role in addressing difficult parts of Scripture?

For Discussion & Accountability

? Who are the people that are hardest for you to pray for? How can we pray this week for your heart toward them?

? What else is challenging you from our discussion today?