

THIS WEEK'S MESSAGE

JULY 6TH-7TH, 2019 // 1 TIMOTHY

FOR EVERYONE (1 TIMOTHY 2:1-4)

WE ARE CALLED TO DEPEND ON GOD

Paul tells Tim that Christians are to be dependent on God in several ways. One of those ways is to pray for all people through "petitions, intercessions, and thanksgivings."

- "All people" means just that. **We're to pray for the needy, helpless, and even "kings" and "those in authority" whether we agree with them or not.**

THE CHRISTIAN HONORS AUTHORITY

Government was instituted by God for our benefit, and when it operates well, it is an ally to the gospel.

- **We often complain more than we pray, but Paul encouraged Christians to pray for gov'ts even in the times of extremely evil and corrupt leaders like Nero Caesar.**

WE PRAY IN ORDER TO LIVE BETTER LIVES

Prayer for others leads us into lives that are "tranquil," "quiet," and "in all godliness." We are to enter into prayer with respect, awe, joy, and a sense of responsibility.

- **Prayer is not just a formality in worship services or before dinner**, but a mandated time to communicate with our Father.

GOD WANTS EVERYONE TO KNOW HIM

Not only does God want Christians to grow in their relationship with Him through prayer, but **He wants us to pray for everyone to "come to the knowledge of the truth."**

- **God wants humanity to be truly liberated and saved, and liberation only comes through the truth that is Jesus Christ.**

CLARITY (1 TIMOTHY 2:5-7)

ANOTHER WAY WE DEPEND ON GOD

Paul also calls Tim to depend on God by remembering Who God is, and that there is "one God and one mediator between God and humanity, the man Christ Jesus, who gave Himself as a ransom for all."

- **The exclusivity of Jesus Christ as the means of salvation is the core of Christianity.**

CHRISTIANS CANNOT BE PLURALISTIC

The word of culture now is tolerance and the great aspiration is pluralism (belief in multiple paths).

- **Though the Christian should honor the right to believe and worship freely, it is sinful and illogical to think there are multiple paths to salvation or that everyone can be right.**

WE DEPEND ON GOD BY REMEMBERING WHO WE ARE IN HIM

Paul knew who he was and where God had brought him from. **Knowing who we are in Christ and how far God has taken us is imperative to living a productive life.**

- Paul understood that he was a messenger of God, but that God was the One worthy of praise.

GOD IS STILL LOOKING FOR "HERALDS"

Jesus is looking and opening the door for people that will honor Him through how they live. He also wants ambassadors to share the gospel to those who haven't heard it.

- We're called to live clean lives in order to build trust and a good reputation. We're also called to teach truth! **We honor God in deed and word!**

THE MESSENGER WANTED TO BE CLEAR

Paul wanted 3 things clear: **1. All truth comes from God 2. Salvation is available to everyone and 3.**

Christians are God's means of spreading the truth.

MEN & WOMEN (1 TIMOTHY 2:8-10)

INSTRUCTIONS FOR CHRISTIAN MEN

God, through Paul, calls "men in every place to pray, lifting up holy hands without anger and argument."

- 1 Timothy 2:8 seems to directly contradict the attitude of most men in modern day church. **The problem is that too many men do not have a proper relationship with God.**

WE ARE CALLED TO LIVE AT A HIGHER LEVEL

Men are to have **prayer lives**, to be able to lift our hands and have them be **unpolluted by sin**, and to **get a grip on our tempers and argumentative dispositions.**

- **These things can only be achieved through God's grace and a relationship with Him.**

WELL, I'M JUST NOT THAT EMOTIONAL

It isn't that men don't have an emotional side because they clearly exercise passion and emotion in certain situations (NFL and collegiate sports). Again, **the problem is a priority and spiritual issue.**

- Some "men" aren't really men at all, at least not in the biblical sense. **We need to get our priorities in order.**

INSTRUCTIONS FOR THE CHRISTIAN WOMAN

Women are to "dress themselves in modest clothing, with decency and good sense, not with elaborate hairstyles, gold, pearls or expensive apparel..."

- Modesty and decency are defined within a culture, but the point is much bigger. **God wants women to know where their value comes from: Him!**

"...BUT WITH GOOD WORKS, AS IS PROPER FOR WOMEN WHO PROFESS TO WORSHIP GOD."

Look at the depth of what Paul is saying! He's saying women should be known by their character, not their outer appearance. In Ephesus where Tim was leading, elaborate hair and clothes became a distraction to the real point of gathering as a church.

MODESTY AND DECENCY

Modesty and decency should be practiced by women and men. We need to be careful not to be a stumbling block to others and to honor God in all we do, including how we present ourselves. This is a personal conviction and should not be legalistic in how it is taught. **This is a heart issue.**

WOMEN IN LEADERSHIP (1 TIMOTHY 2:11-15)

CONTEXT AND SALVIFIC ISSUES

When studying the Bible a couple of things are vitally important: the **context** (where and to whom is the author speaking) and **what is a major** (salvation issue) **or a minor** (can disagree without compromising salvation). Gender roles in church leadership is a minor that has been taken out of context on both sides.

TO "LEARN QUIETLY"

This is referring to a problem the church in Ephesus was facing when women, who had been suppressed, were going too far with their new freedom in Christianity and being disruptive.

"...FULL SUBMISSION"

Women were free to ask questions and formulate ideas, but they had to do it peacefully and submissively. Submission here is likely referring to the teacher and the scripture more than to men in general. The Bible does call for women to submit to their husbands (Eph. 5:22), but that is not what this is referring to.

TEACHING AND HAVING AUTHORITY OVER MEN?

V12 is sticky and has been grossly abused. **We must go back to context.** The biggest place of worship in Ephesus was the temple of Artemis, led by a female only cult.

- The women in Ephesus were both ignorant to the scripture and prone to look down upon men. In other words, gender roles had been distorted.

THE MISTAKES OF ADAM AND EVE

Since Genesis men have been called to lead in a way worthy of submission. Paul brings this up to point out how distorting gender roles can lead to calamity.

- **Gen. 3 indicts Eve for being deceived (never an excuse to sin), but it also passively indicts Adam for not leading in times of confusion.**

SAVED THROUGH CHILDBEARING?

There's much speculation about v15. One idea is that Paul was referring to the huge role women get to play as mothers. God has chosen women to be the vessel to create life.

- **Whether a mom or not, the final advice to live in "faith, love, and holiness with good sense" will bring any person joy.**

TO SUMMARIZE THE ROLE OF WOMEN IN THE CHURCH

Women can teach and lead, but there is no evidence of female Elders or senior pastors in the Bible.

Women are not inferior to men. We have different roles, both vitally important. **This is not a major issue that should divide the church.** God will equip and send whomever He chooses.

A HUGE PROBLEM IS MEN, NOT WOMEN

Men should be leaders in the home, marriage, and church, but unfortunately men in general have dropped the ball. Therefore, women have had to fill the void. **Everyone has a role, but because so many men have not acted in their roles it has pushed many women to act outside of theirs (Judges 4-5).**

A CALL TO STEP UP

We're called to pray, not just for ourselves, but for the sake of humanity's salvation. **We are called to honor authority** and pray for our gov't regardless of our affiliations. In order to live the way we should, **we must be clear on Who God is and remember who we are in Him. We've got to start taking responsibility** for our relationship with God, marriages, families, and how the church functions within a broken society. **We've got to get a grip on sin.** We cannot be in relationship with Christ and be what He has designed us to be with sin in our lives. We are called to be known by our holiness and not the empty things of this world. **What defines us?** Is it fleeting, shallow, selfish pursuits, or is it the good deeds we do in order to help others and bring glory to God?