

1 Timothy

pass it on

May 17, 2009



This passage—to some the single most offensive in all the Bible—rightly understood and rightly received, is a source of great blessing from God.

1 Timothy 2:1-2, 8-12, 13-15

1 I urge, then, first of all, that requests, prayers, intercession and thanksgiving be made for everyone—2 for kings and all those in authority, that we may live peaceful and quiet lives in all godliness and holiness.

8 I want men everywhere to lift up holy hands in prayer, without anger or disputing.

9 I also want women to dress modestly, with decency and propriety, not with braided hair 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 have authority over a man; she must be silent....

... 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 {Greek <she>} will be saved {Or <restored>} through childbearing-- if they continue in faith, love and holiness with propriety.

The Offensive Passage

- *rightly understood*—humility to grasp the text
- *rightly received*—humility to apply the text
- Some not-so-helpful approaches

Worship Instructions vs 8-10

- *men*—good stuff for worship
- *women*—good stuff for worship

Three Provocative Words vs 11-12

- What sort of *silence* is commanded?
- What sort of *teaching* is limited?
- What sort of *authority* is excluded?
- Are verse 12 and 1 Timothy 3:2,8; 5:17 merely coincidental?

Questions/Concerns for Next Week

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Where Do I Grow from Here? (Personal and Growth Group Questions)

You and others will benefit most by recording your answers in advance of your Growth Group meeting.

Bible references in this text style are optional for you to research.

Interact

- 1) Who have been some of the strongest women you've known in your life? In what way were they strong?

Observe and Interpret

- 2) (vs 8) What do you think it means to lift up holy hands in prayer? How does this command tie in with the prayer instructions that were given just before this verse?
- 3) (vs 8) How might *anger* and *disputing* connect to lifting *holy hands in prayer*?
- 4) (vs 9,10) What is mentioned about appearance here? Why this emphasis? Why would this instruction be given in the context of worship services?
Which is most important to tell a young girl—to work on her figure, hair, and complexion, or to work on her intellect or what? What does our society tell women about their appearance?
See also 1 Peter 3:1-6.
- 5) Knowing that the word *quietness* in vs 11 is the same greek word in verse 2 for *quiet* and in verse 12 for *silent*, does Paul likely mean women to be absolutely silent? Why or why not?

- 6) Read Matthew 23:1-12 and Luke 22:24-26. How does Jesus define greatness? How is authority to be used? Is it even Biblical to have authority to command others? What difference might this make for a boss, a church leader, and parent?
- 7) What dignity is shown women by Jesus in Luke 13:10-16? How about Matthew 28:5-7?
- 8) **What sort of teaching is limited? What are some examples in the Bible of women teaching? For examples, look up 2 Timothy 1:5 and 3:14, Titus 2:3; Acts 2:17, Acts 18:24-26 (Priscilla and Aquila were wife and husband), and Acts 21:7-9. What women taught or spoke forth God's word in these situations?**
- 9) **What sort of authority is excluded? Find other examples of church leadership or authority roles in 1 Timothy 3:2 and 3:8. How are overseers and deacons different here with regard to authority to lead?**

See also 1 Timothy 5:17 for a difference between elders and deacons on the issue of teaching. Who is to teach here?

What significance might there be between the restrictions of 1 Timothy 2:12 and role of elder?

**For further research:
CBMW.org
and CBEinternational.org**

Some questions are derived from *Serendipity Bible*, (Zondervan)