



## "Counter-Cultural Living"

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### I. A Word About \_\_\_\_\_

1 Timothy 2:1 "First of all, then, I urge that supplications, prayers, intercessions, and thanksgivings be made for all people"

#### A. The \_\_\_\_\_ of Prayer

1 Timothy 2:1a "First of all"

#### B. The 'What' of Prayer

1 Timothy 2:1b "supplications, prayers, intercessions, and thanksgivings"

#### C. The 'Who' of Prayer

1 Timothy 2:1c "be made for all people"

Jeremiah 29:7 "But seek the welfare of the city where I have sent you into exile, and pray to the Lord on its behalf, for in its welfare you will find your welfare."

1 Timothy 2:2a "for kings and all who are in high positions"

#### D. The 'Why' of Prayer

1. Prayer Leads to \_\_\_\_\_  
(1 Timothy 2:2b)

2. Prayer is \_\_\_\_\_ to God  
(1 Timothy 2:3)

3. Prayer Reflects God's Heart  
(1 Timothy 2:3b-7; Deuteronomy 6:4-5)

### II. A Word to the \_\_\_\_\_

1 Timothy 2:8 "I desire then that in every place the men should pray, lifting holy hands without anger or quarreling"

#### A. The \_\_\_\_\_ of Prayer

#### B. The Posture of the \_\_\_\_\_

1 Timothy 2:8b "lifting holy hands without anger or quarreling"

1 Peter 3:7 "Likewise, husbands, live with your wives in an understanding way, showing honor to the woman as the weaker vessel, since they are heirs with you of the grace of life, so that your prayers may not be hindered."

Matthew 5:23-24 "So if you are offering your gift at the altar and there remember that your brother has something against you, leave your gift there before the altar and go. First be reconciled to your brother, and then come and offer your gift"

### II. A Word to the \_\_\_\_\_

#### A. The Importance of Modesty and Self-Control

1 Timothy 2:9-10 "likewise also that women should adorn themselves in respectable apparel, with modesty and self-control, not with braided hair and gold or pearls or costly attire, but with what is proper for women who profess godliness—with good works."

1 Timothy 2:9a "likewise..."

#### B. Trust in God's Design for Discipleship

1 Timothy 2:11 "Let a woman learn quietly with all submissiveness."

1. As a \_\_\_\_\_

2. With a Gentle and \_\_\_\_\_

3. In Understanding \_\_\_\_\_ Equality  
(1 Timothy 2:12-14)

a. The Created \_\_\_\_\_  
(1 Timothy 2:13)

b. The Fall and Disorder  
(1 Timothy 2:14; Genesis 3:9; Romans 5:14-15)

#### C. Know the Truth About \_\_\_\_\_

1 Timothy 2:15 "Yet she will be saved through childbearing—if they continue in faith and love and holiness, with self-control."

1. Through the Promised \_\_\_\_\_  
(Genesis 3:15)

2. Through \_\_\_\_\_  
(1 Timothy 2:15b)



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## BACKGROUND:

We see in today's passage that God "desires all people to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth" (1 Timothy 2:4). Part of God's plan for salvation is how people are ministered to. The teaching and preaching of God's Word should proceed from an orderly and reverent discourse. Our quiet, peaceful, Godly, and dignified lives should be a witness to others as we are intentional to pray for all people including those in authority (1 Timothy 2:2, 9). As followers of Jesus, we represent Him to the world. We are His ambassadors (2 Corinthians 5:20). The way we behave ourselves influences the effectiveness of our sharing the gospel. This includes the way we pray and how we worship.

## DIGGING DEEPER:

**We come to God in prayer for many reasons. Paul begins this portion of his letter to Timothy by focusing on prayer. Prayer is powerful. It provides direct communication with God through which He may choose to answer our prayer according to His perfect will and timing.**

1. Paul encourages us to pray for all people with supplications, intercessions, and thanksgiving. (Supplications = asking for something, Intercessions = praying on behalf of or for others, Thanksgiving = expressing gratitude to God) How is each one important in our worship of God?

2. Many people will naturally focus on supplications, asking for something, when they pray. How does praying with thanksgiving and gratitude enhance your relationship with God?

3. What does intercessory prayer and praying for others look like in your prayer life?

**Paul tells us that Jesus is the one mediator between God and man. All have sinned. We are born into sin (Psalm 51:5). Therefore, sinful man needs a mediator to reconcile him to a holy God.**

4. What is it about Jesus that qualifies Him to be our one and only mediator between us and God?

5. Describe how knowing that Jesus continually mediates on your behalf effects your faith and relationship with God?

6. What happened to your sinful condition the moment you surrendered to Jesus as your Lord and Savior? How do you incorporate this assurance into making disciples?

Life is messy. In many ways a church is like a spiritual hospital. Much of this messiness comes from our culture. Paul instructs we should behave counterculturally. Men "should pray, lifting holy hands without anger or quarreling" (1 Timothy 2:8). He said women should do likewise. Also, that they should adorn themselves in respectable clothing, modesty, and self-control (1 Timothy 2:9). Women should profess godliness and good works.

7. Anger and quarreling are works of the flesh and have no place in worship. What is the fruit of the Spirit (Galatians 5:22-23)? What is its role in our worship and building up of the body?

8. Why do you believe that Paul places an emphasis on respectable clothing, modesty, and self-control?

9. What happens to our worship when attention is drawn to ourselves and become a distraction, or we become distracted by other people and/or things during worship?

10. How can an orderly worship service help build up the body and be a witness to unbelievers who attend?

**Paul states that he does not allow a woman to teach or have authority over a man (1 Timothy 2:12). Note: this is not an instruction against speaking in general. The context relates to the concern of exercising authority over a man. Paul goes on to reference the order of creation (1 Timothy 2:13-15).**

11. What might be Paul's concern for a woman exercising authority over a man?

12. How does the order of creation define different roles and activities in God's design for men and women?

13. How is this teaching "counter-cultural" in today's environment (remember, Paul is calling the Church to be counter-cultural ... as did Jesus)?

## TAKING IT HOME:

**Galatians 3:28 reminds us that men and women are completely equal in the body of Christ. 1 Peter 3:7 makes us aware that both men and women are equal heirs of the grace of Jesus. Our value in Christ is equal, yet our roles remain different.**

14. Ephesians 5:21-33; 1 Corinthians 11:3, 8-9; 1 Corinthians 14:34-35 speak to the spiritual roles of men and women. How does God's design for our roles differ from that of our culture?

15. How can understanding that men and women are equal yet different lead to greater harmony in our relationships and our worship?