
Protégé: “PAX”

Key Takeaways:

- 1. God desires for His church to pray for all leaders, even those we disagree with.*
- 2. Personal disputes and anger should be left out of worship to maintain focus on God.*
- 3. The context of Paul's instructions to Timothy in Ephesus is important for understanding the passage.*
- 4. God has used women in leadership roles throughout Scripture and church history.*
- 5. The ultimate goal is to have order in worship and use all gifts for God's glory.*

Discussion Questions:

- 1. How often do you pray for leaders you disagree with? What challenges do you face in doing so?*
- 2. Have you ever experienced tension or disputes affecting worship in a church? How did it impact the atmosphere?*
- 3. What are your thoughts on Paul's instructions for women in the Ephesian church? How do you reconcile this with other examples of women in leadership in the Bible?*
- 4. How can we ensure that our focus remains on God during worship, rather than on distractions or personal conflicts?*
- 5. In what ways might cultural context influence our interpretation and application of Scripture? How can we be mindful of this when reading the Bible?*

6. *What are some practical ways we can promote unity and order in our church while still valuing diverse gifts and perspectives?*

Practical Applications:

1. *Commit to praying for a leader you disagree with every day this week.*
2. *If you have any unresolved conflicts with fellow believers, take steps to address them this week through prayer, conversation, or seeking mediation if necessary.*
3. *Reflect on your own behavior during worship services. Are there ways you might be causing distractions? How can you improve your focus on God?*
4. *Research and discuss examples of women in leadership roles in your church tradition or denomination. How has this evolved over time?*
5. *Practice active listening and respectful dialogue, especially when discussing potentially controversial topics like those addressed in the sermon.*
6. *Identify your spiritual gifts and consider how you can use them to serve the church in an orderly and unifying way.*
7. *Spend time studying the cultural and historical context of a challenging Bible passage to gain a deeper understanding of its meaning and application.*

Closing Prayer: *Close by praying for our perspective in worship to always revolve around making God the focal point of our gathering, setting aside anything that might distract us or others from the goal of upholding God as the sole purpose of our being together*

QUICK-HIT Questions (for less formal discussion)

Pick and Choose from any questions that might fit your discussion

1. How might our approach to praying for leaders we disagree with change if we truly embraced Paul's teaching on this? What barriers do we need to overcome to pray sincerely for all leaders?
2. In what ways can unresolved disputes or tensions between church members impact the worship atmosphere and spiritual health of a congregation? How can we address these issues biblically?
3. Considering the cultural context of Ephesus, how might Paul's instructions about women's dress and behavior have been revolutionary? How do we apply these principles thoughtfully in our modern context?
4. What are some potential dangers of interpreting scripture without considering its historical and cultural context? How can we study scripture more holistically?
5. How does the example of Deborah as a judge in Israel challenge or inform our understanding of women in church leadership roles? What other biblical examples might be relevant to this discussion?
6. In what ways might the gradual integration of women into church leadership roles in the early church parallel other social changes in church history? How should the church approach significant cultural shifts today?
7. How do Paul's instructions about order in worship apply to our modern church services? What distractions or disruptions might we need to address to maintain a focus on God?
8. Considering Paul's broader ministry and his partnerships with women leaders, how might we reconcile this with his instructions in 1 Timothy 2? What principles can we draw from this apparent tension?
9. How does the concept of mutual submission in marriage (as seen in Ephesians 5) relate to Paul's teachings on authority in the church? How can we promote healthy, Christ-centered relationships in both contexts?
10. What does it mean for us today to 'operate in the interests of God and of others' during corporate worship? How can we cultivate this mindset in our church communities?