

1 Timothy 2 | Worship and godly service

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 to 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.

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.

Discuss

1. Why might Paul have used four different words “requests, prayers, intercession and thanksgiving”—instead of just telling us to pray?
2. Why does Paul urge us to pray for everyone?
3. Paul adds special instructions to pray for the government. Why?
4. In verse 7, Paul tells us his special assignment as an apostle is to teach the Gentiles the gospel message. What is our assignment?
5. How do we do this?

6. The word “men” in verse 8 is the word for “males.” What is God saying here?

7. What message does he give women in vs. 9-10?

8. In vs. 11 & 12, the words “learn” and “teach” can be compared to the relationship between a student and a professor, or Jesus and his disciples. The words “quietness/submission” and “silent” expand on the picture to show the attitude the student/disciple has—one of a quiet spirit, eager to hear and understand. Verse 12 states a principle having to do with the callings of men and women and also an application of that principle. The principle is that women are not to have authority over men. The application is that she should not teach men. Paul goes on to give us the origin of this principle. Where does it come from?

9. Agree or disagree: From vs. 14 we learn that Adam was less guilty because Eve was the one who sinned. Explain your answer.

10. Agree or disagree: The world has changed and Christian women no longer need to follow the principle of headship and helper.

Dear Jesus, by your living, dying, and rising you have changed the world. You have changed me. Send your Holy Spirit to continue to change my sin and selfishness to service. You have called me to be your own and to live in the grace of your kindness now and forever. Give me faith to appreciate Your Word and live with confidence as your dear child. In Your name I pray. Amen.