

## **I TIMOTHY 2**

Please turn in your Bibles this evening to I Timothy chapter 2 as we continue our study through the Word of God.

Keep in mind the theme for this letter, and that is given to us in I Timothy 3:15 where Paul wrote, **“but if I am delayed, I write so that you may know how you ought to conduct yourself in the house of God, which is the church of the living God, the pillar and ground of the truth.”**

In other words, it is what the church, not a building but the people of God are to be about. When we gather, we are to be the pillar and foundation of the truth, and that is so important in the days we are living in when there is such much false doctrine out there.

And remember, the best argument for and against Christianity is Christianity!

What do I mean by that?

I mean that how we live out our lives as Christians can open doors for us to shine for Jesus, to let others know about Jesus.

But, on the other end of the spectrum, if we live our Christian lives in rebellion against God, not in a Christian way, then we can close those doors and we are representing a bad picture of the God we say we love!

So it is important how we live out our faith and that is what Paul is going to be talking about in our study this evening.

How we behave ourselves in the church of God is important as well because the church, like I have said, is the pillar and the foundation of the truth. But, as we move away from the truths of God found in the Word of God, as we adopt worldly ideas into the church, we are no longer the pillar and foundation of the truth but the error we have brought in will eventually cause the structure to fall apart!

Keep in mind that in our study last week in I Timothy chapter 1 we saw the importance of God's Word in exposing the lies that some were teaching.

Now, as we move into chapter 2 the focus is on prayer and its importance. And really, we look at men and women in the church and their roles.

But, as far as men go and the idea of prayer, which Paul will deal with, it does apply to me today. You see, as a pastor/teacher this should be my focus, even though I do wear many hats, I do many other things.

Remember what the apostles said in Acts 6:4 as they were being overwhelmed with other matters, **“but we will give ourselves continually to prayer and to the ministry of the word.”**

Folks, I realize that some of you may be disappointed that I don't do more things with you, we don't have more ministries, but my priority must be teaching the Word of God and prayer. I am not angry or upset about that because that is what God has called me to do, it is that important.

Also, in I Timothy chapters 2 & 3 Paul is going to speak of the public ministry of the church and the various roles that members play within the church.

So we are going to be dealing with very important lessons, difficult lessons, even controversial lessons for some, but instead of fighting against the role that God has designed and ordained for us, may we use it to bring glory to God and fulfill that role that God has for us.

And again, people are watching how we live out our faith, and as they are watching, what are they seeing? Remember, the best argument for and against Christianity is how we practice our faith or live out our faith!

Let me show you what I mean. We are told,

As far as we know, Thomas Huxley, the famous agnostic, never put his faith in Christ, but he did experience some degree of conviction.

Toward the end of his life, Huxley was a guest at a retreat in a country home.

Sunday came, and most of the guests went to church. Naturally, Huxley did not go.

Alone, he approached a man known to have a simple and radiant Christian faith.

Huxley said, “Suppose you don’t go to church today. Suppose you stay at home and you tell me quite simply what your Christian faith means to you and why you are a Christian.”

“But,” said the man, “you could demolish my arguments in an instant. I am not clever enough to argue with you.”

Huxley gently replied, “I don’t want to argue with you; I just want you to tell me simply what this Christ means to you.”

The man stayed and did as Huxley had requested. When he finished, there were tears in the old agnostic’s eyes.

- R. Kent Hughes and Bryan Chapell, 1-2 Timothy and Titus – To Guard the Deposit, p. 61

Remember what Paul wrote in II Corinthians 3:2-3, **“You are our epistle written in our hearts, known and read by all men; clearly you are an epistle of Christ, ministered by us, written not with ink but by the Spirit of the living God, not on tablets of stone but on tablets of flesh, that is, of the heart.”**

Paul is showing these Corinthians, as some challenged his ministry position, that they themselves are the evidence to show that God has placed him in this ministry. They are the fruit of his labors.

Think about our own lives. We were dead in sin. Our hearts were like stone, hard as a rock to the things of God. And God has taken that heart of stone and given us a heart of flesh, a new heart that is sensitive to the things of God.

Now the Law of God is not obeyed because we have to, we obey the Law of God because we love Him and want to obey Him.

And as people now look at our lives, they see the change that has taken place in us. They see that we are different. We don't talk like we talked before we were saved. We are not doing the same things we did before we were saved. Our lives are vastly different and thus, as people read them, as people look at our lives, they see the change, they see the difference, and it opens the door for us to speak of all that God has done.

As I have said before, many times the only Bible people will read is your life, for it is a living epistle and thus, what are people reading about our God as they look at your life?

With that said, let's begin reading in I Timothy chapter 2, starting in verse 1 and see what the Lord has for us this evening.

## **I TIMOTHY 2**

### **VERSE 1**

Paul opens up here with the importance of prayer. And specifically, here in this portion of this letter, Paul is writing to men, that they should be men of prayer, it is that important.

How do I know that Paul is speaking of men?

Look at how Paul closes out this section here in I Timothy 2:8, **“Therefore I desire that the men pray everywhere, lifting up holy hands, without wrath and doubting.”**

Now don’t come to the conclusion that it is not important for women to pray, but Paul’s point is pretty simple. Men must pray not just in the church but in their homes as well.

Why is this such a big deal?

Because men are to be the leaders in their homes and in the church and if you are not in communication with God, then how can you lead your families or how can you lead the church? You can’t, is the idea!

And keep in mind how Paul opens up this section, with the word **“Therefore”** and it brings us back to what Paul has said in I Timothy chapter 1.

In other words, because of all that Paul said in I Timothy chapter 1, you men need to pray!

Why would Paul have to make such a request for the Ephesian believers to pray for all men, for everyone?

There are a couple of reasons.

First of all, the Judaizers came in claiming that to be saved you needed to keep the Law and become a Jew.

That would restrict praying for Gentiles because it was up to them to change.

Secondly, an early form of Gnosticism was being taught and the idea here is that salvation came only to the elite, those who could ascend to the high levels of secret mystical knowledge.

Of course there is no need to pray here either, you either have it or you don’t!

Thus, Paul reminded them that they are to pray for all men for salvation and sanctification so that men are not only saved but by their actions, things will go well, that they will mature.

Now Paul lists some three things here; supplications, prayers, and intercessions. What is the difference? Let me explain it like this.

First of all, *supplications* are specific prayers.

He then speaks of *prayers*, which are more of a general prayer.

And then he speaks of *intercessions*, which speak of our prayers for others as we bring their needs before God.

And then, what is the attitude of prayer?

We are to pray with thanksgiving.

That is what Paul tells us in Philippians 4:6-7, as he wrote, **“Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God; and the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.”**

Once again we see Paul speak of praying with a heart of thanksgiving before God!

Now, in a minute we will see how this is played out in our lives, that as we pray are we praying with a heart of thanksgiving or are we complaining or our heart is really not in this prayer for this person because we don’t like them, or whatever.

And I do realize that it is hard to pray at times for people who have hurt us, but don’t we want them to come to saving faith? I hope so!

Now, as we read on, we are going to see who we should be praying for, and for some, this is a very difficult section. Listen to what Paul tells us.

VERSE 2

I know, some of you are thinking, “*Are you kidding me! Pray for our government leaders?*”

That is exactly who Paul is speaking of here. He is telling the Ephesian believers to pray for government leaders who were in authority over them, which was Rome at the time.

Again, there are some Christians who have a hard time with this because they feel our government is wicked; it is evil, which there are many who are within our government.

Let me say this. That is not the issue; we are still to pray for them.

Remember that Caesar Nero burned Rome in 64 A. D. and blamed the Christians for doing it.

Thus, persecution against Christians was growing quickly.

Immorality, wickedness was rampant.

The call for the destruction of Rome and the government officials could be justified by the Christians of that day.

And yet Paul says that we are to pray for them and don’t fight against them.

You see, less talking and more praying!

In fact, the early church leader Tertullian explained: “We pray for all the emperors, that God may grant them long life, a secure government, a prosperous family, vigorous troops, a faithful senate, an obedient people; that the whole world may be in peace; and that God may grant, both to Caesar and to every man, the accomplishment of their just desires.” (Clarke)

I know this is a tough one when we see all that is going on in Washington D. C. in our day, but notice what Paul said in Romans 13:1-7 regarding those who are in authority over us, what we are to do in regard to the government that oversees us.

We are told, **“Let every soul be subject to the governing authorities. For there is no authority except from God, and the authorities that exist are appointed by God. Therefore whoever resists the authority resists the ordinance of God, and those who resist will bring judgment on themselves. For rulers are not a terror to good works, but to evil. Do you want to be unafraid of the authority? Do what is good, and you will have praise from the same. For he is God’s minister to you for good. But if you do evil, be afraid; for he does not bear the sword in vain; for he is God’s minister, an avenger to execute wrath on him who practices evil. Therefore you must be subject, not only because of wrath but also for conscience’ sake. For because of this you also pay taxes, for they are God’s ministers attending continually to this very thing. Render therefore to all their due: taxes to whom taxes are due, customs to whom customs, fear to whom fear, honor to whom honor.”**

Wait a minute, I think I read that wrong.

Doesn’t it say, ***“Let everyone be subject to the governing authorities - if they are righteous and honor God - otherwise I don’t have to submit.”?***

No, it doesn’t. Let me say this. God has established three institutions and has given us some very specific instructions on these institutions and how they are to run.

And Satan has come and perverted them and is destroying them. They are:

***THE HOME*** – Genesis 2:18-25

***THE GOVERNMENT*** – Genesis 9:1-17

***THE CHURCH*** – Acts 2



Make no mistake about it, in **EVERY** ordered society there **MUST** be authority and submission to that authority. If there isn't, they you have a state of anarchy and any institution that has deteriorated into a state of anarchy will not survive. We are very close in our nation as we see the deterioration of the home, the government and the church!

I told you this is a difficult section. Paul is saying that we are to be subject to those in authority over us, even human government!

Now with our current President in office, Donald Trump, it is a little easier to be subject to his authority, but were we subject to the authority of President Obama when he was in office?

Surely God can't mean we would have to be subject to an ungodly man even if he is the President of the United States, can He?

You bet He does for Paul makes it very clear as he says, "**Let every soul be subject to the governing authorities . . .**" That includes you and me, every soul, we are to be subject to the governing authorities!

And as you look at the leaders in this country, this is not an easy task and yet, God appoints people into governing positions, and sometimes it is for our good and sometimes for judgment!

In Jeremiah 25:9 we are told, "**behold, I will send and take all the families of the north,' says the LORD, 'and Nebuchadnezzar the king of Babylon, My servant, and will bring them against this land, against its inhabitants, and against these nations all around, and will utterly destroy them, and make them an astonishment, a hissing, and perpetual desolations.'**"

Also, in Jeremiah 27:6-7 we are told, **“And now I have given all these lands into the hand of Nebuchadnezzar the king of Babylon, My servant; and the beasts of the field I have also given him to serve him. So all nations shall serve him and his son and his son's son, until the time of his land comes; and then many nations and great kings shall make him serve them.”**

Do you see that? God calls this pagan King, Nebuchadnezzar His servant for he is accomplishing the will of God, even though he thought he was doing as he pleased, he thought he was in control.

Thus, if you resist those in authority over you; you are disobeying God’s Word; you are resisting His will!

J. Vernon McGee reminds us that, “Civil government is a gift from God, and we ought to give thanks for it and pray for it. Many of us fall short of praying for our government but we must in order that we might continue to live quietly and peaceably.”

But, as we see today, because of our hyper-partisan bitter political environment where Democrats and Republicans are constantly at each other’s throats, even Christians don’t want to pray for their leaders if they’re a member of the other side.

Others feel that our leaders have become so corrupt why bother praying?

If you are struggling in this area, listen carefully to what Paul tells us as we read on here in I Timothy chapter 2.

#### **VERSES 3-4**

Why are we to be praying for our leaders? The reason we pray for our leaders is that it is **“good and acceptable in the sight of God our Savior”** to do so!

Not only that, but we pray for the salvation of our leaders and all men.

As you well know, I am not much for protesting, holding political rallies because I don't believe that is what God desires.

You see, you can change all the laws you want, but if you don't change people's hearts, it won't really matter.

God's desire is for all men to be saved and thus, we should pray for all men to come and know the Lord!

In II Peter 3:9 we are told, **"The Lord is not slack concerning His promise, as some count slackness, but is longsuffering toward us, not willing that any should perish but that all should come to repentance."**

And in Ezekiel 33:11 we see the heart of God as we are told, **"Say to them: 'As I live,' says the Lord GOD, 'I have no pleasure in the death of the wicked, but that the wicked turn from his way and live. Turn, turn from your evil ways! For why should you die, O house of Israel?'"**

Then are all going to be saved in the end, a kind of universalism in regard to salvation, a kind of all dogs go to heaven mentality?

No, God desires all to be saved and He could accomplish that if He took away our free will, but then it would not be a love relationship on our part if we didn't have a choice.

God has given to us a free will to choose and thus, God does not send anyone to Hell, they go there because that is where they want to go, they refuse to accept the free gift of God in Jesus and they will die in their sins outside of Him!

It is as Jesus said in John 3:16-21, **“For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life. For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world through Him might be saved. He who believes in Him is not condemned; but he who does not believe is condemned already, because he has not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God. And this is the condemnation, that the light has come into the world, and men loved darkness rather than light, because their deeds were evil. For everyone practicing evil hates the light and does not come to the light, lest his deeds should be exposed. But he who does the truth comes to the light, that his deeds may be clearly seen, that they have been done in God.”**

You see, the choice is yours! But we also see here that man loves the darkness and refuses to come to the light, but again, that is a choice on their part! God loves them and died for them so that they can live with Him, but they don't have to receive the gift of life, and thus, tragically, many won't come to Him and will spend eternity apart from Him!

We also see today people who want our current President to fail so he won't get re-elected. They would rather see this country go down the toilet rather than see Donald Trump make America great again!

And that brings up one more point and it does relate to this, because by their actions, they are just being foolish.

In Jeremiah chapter 29, Jeremiah sends a letter to the Jews who were taken captive to Babylon, God's judgment upon the Southern Kingdom of Judea for their wickedness, and in this letter Jeremiah tells them, **"Thus says the LORD of hosts, the God of Israel, to all who were carried away captive, whom I have caused to be carried away from Jerusalem to Babylon: Build houses and dwell in them; plant gardens and eat their fruit. Take wives and beget sons and daughters; and take wives for your sons and give your daughters to husbands, so that they may bear sons and daughters - that you may be increased there, and not diminished. And seek the peace of the city where I have caused you to be carried away captive, and pray to the LORD for it; for in its peace you will have peace."** Jeremiah 29:4-7.

In other words, you pray for the leaders who are in office because as they are blessed the nation is blessed. Even when your leaders have you in captivity! That is a hard one and yet, it should just make sense.

And for us as Christians, keep in mind that we are aliens and strangers in this world, we are just passing through for our citizenship is in heaven.

Thus, we may have some 70 years here on earth and, in that time, we are to live not in isolation but with the people of this world.

We are to pray for the peace of a nation no matter how wicked, immoral, pagan, religious it is for in their peace we will have peace!

We are to be fruitful and multiply not only in the sense of having children, but seeing people born again into the family of God.

You see, like the people in captivity, many Christians are saying, ***"Hey, the Lord is coming back soon, we are going home, so what is the use. Don't do anything, kick back, and relax."***

I do think the Lord is coming back soon, but whenever He does, we are to be found faithful in the service He has entrusted to us, and we can fix up our homes, not just our spiritual homes, these bodies but our earthly homes to. There is nothing wrong with that. I think that is a proper perspective to have.

We need to pray for our leaders, our country, our family, our friends, our churches and-so-on, that they would come to know the Savior, Jesus Christ!

It is as General Robert E. Lee said,

Knowing that intercessory prayer is our mightiest weapon and the supreme call for all Christians today, I pleadingly urge our people everywhere to pray. Believing that prayer is the greatest contribution that our people can make in this critical hour, I humbly urge that we take time to pray - to really pray.

Let there be prayer at sunup, at noonday, at sundown, at midnight - all through the day. Let us all pray for our churches. Let us pray for ourselves, that we may not lose the word “concern” out of our Christian vocabulary. Let us pray for our nation. Let us pray for those who have never known Jesus Christ and redeeming love, for moral forces everywhere, for our national leaders. Let prayer be our passion. Let prayer be our practice.

- General Robert E. Lee

#### VERSES 5-7

I am not sure why this is so complicated for some people, it is very plain and easy to understand, unless you don't want to accept it. But that does not negate what Paul wrote, it just shows you don't accept what God has said here, that there is only one mediator between God and man!

Job, in speaking of God, said **“For He is not a man, as I am, That I may answer Him, And that we should go to court together. Nor is there any mediator between us, Who may lay his hand on us both.”** Job 9:32-33.

Look at what Job is seeking, a Mediator. There is no one who could bring us to God! And we see that what Job cried for is here, the Mediator, the Bridge Builder, the One who restored our fellowship with the Father, Jesus Christ.

Again, I do realize that this is not politically correct, to say that Jesus is the only way, but tough!

That is the reality and I am not going to lie just to make someone feel good about themselves when they are dying in their sins.

Jesus said in John 14:6, **“... ‘I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me.’”**

So if you have a problem with that, bring it before God, He said it!

Regarding there being a specific Mediator, William McDonald wrote, “The verse effectively answers the teaching so common today that the blessed Virgin Mary or angels or saints are mediators between God and man. There is only one Mediator, and His name is Christ Jesus.” Absolutely!

Also, Paul spoke that the coming of Christ was brought about in **“due time.”**

Paul put it like this in Galatians 4:4-5, **“But when the fullness of the time had come, God sent forth His Son, born of a woman, born under the law, to redeem those who were under the law, that we might receive the adoption as sons.”**

You see, Jesus did not come on the scene too early or too late but right on time as we have just read.

Author Jim Boice put it like this. He wrote,

***It was right time politically***

The Roman Empire was at its zenith of power and glory. Rome had given the world good roads, a relatively fair system of government, and most important it had given the world peace.

For the first time in history, people could travel with relative ease almost anywhere in the empire which meant those early Christians could carry the message of the gospel all over the known world.

***It was the right time culturally***

Alexander the Great had conquered the world three centuries earlier and then “Hellenized” it by imposing on it Greek culture, philosophy, and the Greek language.

The influence of Greek culture and language was so powerful that even after the Romans conquered the world people still spoke Greek.

Greek was the most precise and descriptive of all ancient languages, it was the language of the first century, the language everyone understood—it was a universal language perfect for the quick spread of the gospel.

- Jim Boice

So at the appointed time, the perfect time, God sent forth His Son to save the world from their sins!

And for Paul, this is the message he brought forth, the Gospel message. And as we have seen as we went through the book of Acts, Paul first went to the Jews with the Gospel message but they, for the most part, rejected it and thus, his ministry was primarily to the Gentiles even though his passion was to see the Jews saved!



But his message never changed as he tells us in I Corinthians 2:1-5, **“And I, brethren, when I came to you, did not come with excellence of speech or of wisdom declaring to you the testimony of God. For I determined not to know anything among you except Jesus Christ and Him crucified. I was with you in weakness, in fear, and in much trembling. And my speech and my preaching were not with persuasive words of human wisdom, but in demonstration of the Spirit and of power, that your faith should not be in the wisdom of men but in the power of God.”**

Today people want to change the message because it is too narrow from them, that Jesus is the only way.

But we can't change the message because it is not ours to change! It is God's and thus, we need to proclaim it today just as Paul did in his day – in faith and in truth!

#### VERSE 8

Remember the context here, what this letter is all about. Paul said, **“These things I write to you, though I hope to come to you shortly; but if I am delayed, I write so that you may know how you ought to conduct yourself in the house of God, which is the church of the living God, the pillar and ground of the truth.”** I Timothy 3:14-15.

Paul is speaking about how we are to conduct ourselves in the church, when we gather together to worship the Lord, the function of the church.

And here Paul says **“men”** not women are to lead in prayer as the church gathers together for worship.

Does that mean women should not be praying?

Not at all. But men are to lead the way, they are to be that example for the church to follow!

Now what does Paul mean when he says that men should pray and as they are praying, they are **“lifting up holy hands”**?

It is the posture for surrender unto the Lord.

So does that mean that when we pray we need to lift up our hands to the Lord?

That is not what Paul is saying and if you look through the Scriptures you will see that in the Bible there are many different postures that people have used when praying.

So I don't think that is what Paul is saying here. I don't think it is related to the physical posture of the body in prayer, but I think he is referring to the posture of our heart!

Think about it, **“Holy hands”** are hands that are devoted to serving God and not doing evil, it speaks of a person's entire life.

I hope that makes sense, that Paul is speaking of our actions, the things we do shows we are godly, set apart unto God and not towards evil.

It is not just the posture when you pray, it is the life you live before you pray!

And when we do pray we are to do so in love and believing that God will answer our prayer, as John tells us, **“Now this is the confidence that we have in Him, that if we ask anything according to His will, He hears us. And if we know that He hears us, whatever we ask, we know that we have the petitions that we have asked of Him.”** I John 5:14-15.

Now Paul is going to deal with the role of women in the church, so hang on, it is only going to get even more controversial!

I was hoping to get my bullet proof shield for the podium from Amazon before I taught on this section, but it did not come in yet!

Just kidding.

The thing is this, as we apply God's Word to our lives, we are not going to lose out on anything, that is the lie of Satan! We will truly gain as we obey the Lord and His role for us in the body of Christ, in the family of God.

Listen to what Paul says next.

### VERSES 9-10

Please understand that when Paul says, "**In like manner also, that the women . . .**" he is saying, *"Just as I have commanded the men how to conduct themselves in the local church service - so now I command the women in how they are to conduct themselves in the local church service as well."*

And in this section, there are two main points or commands that Paul is giving to the ladies. They are to dress modestly and act submissively.

First of all, just as men are commanded to pray, women are to dress themselves in a manner that is fitting to worship God.

This is not a suggestion here.

The word "**adorn**" is from KOSMEO, (kos-meh'o) and it is the word from which we get our English word "cosmetic."

It basically means "to put in order" or "to arrange."

Here's the thing, what you wear on the outside is just a reflection of what has taken place on the inside!

Now, the \$100,000 question is, "How are women meant to dress for church?"

Paul lays out some guidelines.

First of all, he speaks of “**modest apparel.**”

What does that mean?

Before you put on your outfit, ask yourself “Is it moderate?”

“**Propriety,**” on the other hand, asks “Is it appropriate for the occasion? Is it going to draw attention to me?”

The idea is that you are to wear something that is not so wild that people are watching you, or men are watching you because of what little you are wearing!

To kind of put this into perspective, listen to what the fourth-century church father, John Chrysostom wrote:

And what then is modest apparel? Such as covers them completely and decently, and not with superfluous ornaments; for the one is decent and the other is not. What? Do you approach God to pray with brodered hair and ornaments of gold? Are you come to a ball? To a marriage-feast? To a carnival? There such costly things might have been seasonable: here not one of them is wanted. You are come to pray, to ask pardon for your sins, to plead for your offences, beseeching the Lord, and hoping to render him propitious [favorable] to you. Away with such hypocrisy!

- Cited in Alfred Plummer, “The Pastoral Epistles, The Expositor’s Bible, p. 101

Again, this is not easy because styles change. And what people wear today is different than 100 years ago. So we do have to take that into consideration.

Listen to how Peter dealt with this issue in I Peter 3:3-4, **“Do not let your adornment be merely outward - arranging the hair, wearing gold, or putting on fine apparel - rather let it be the hidden person of the heart, with the incorruptible beauty of a gentle and quiet spirit, which is very precious in the sight of God.”**

You see, how you dress reflects your heart!

In our society we do the exact opposite. We focus on the outward beauty, the adorning of skimpy clothes, lots of jewelry and it just reflects what is in our heart, not the Lord but we are focused on ourselves.

Look at the multi-billion-dollar plastic surgery industry today where people will spend thousands of dollars to alter their appearance but won't even spend time in a Bible study!

Now, don't get me wrong, as J. Vernon McGee said, if the barn needs to be painted, ladies, then you need to paint it.

The thing is, spend more time with the Lord, building up the inside of your life because what you do there will overflow into your actions, and that is truly where beauty lies as we are told in Proverbs 31:30, **“Charm is deceitful and beauty is passing, But a woman who fears the LORD, she shall be praised.”**

We also have to be careful as we start to judge people that come through the door that might not dress the way we think is appropriate. First of all, are they even saved? They may be an unbeliever and thus, this is how they dress.

But if it is a believer, and they are dressed inappropriately, then talk with them, in love. But make sure you are not talking to them because you are jealous of the way they look.

And just because you would not dress like that, you are not comfortable, doesn't mean they are doing something wrong.

As you look around the room, we have a variety of people and they are dressed as they are comfortable. We may not dress like they do, but that does not make it wrong. So be careful with this. There are some obvious things that are wrong, but again, make sure it is not just you with the problem of how someone is dressed.

And let's put this into perspective. What is this chapter about? **PRAYER!** Thus, bring it before the Lord in prayer, not only the way you dress, but maybe how others are dressing. And maybe pray for them, and if the Lord leads you then you can talk to them in love. I don't think that is an issue here at Calvary but again, may all that we do be done in the love of Christ and with prayer!

Okay, does anyone have I Timothy 2:11-12 in their Bibles, mine seems to be whited out! As much as it would be great to skip these two verses, we need to remember that God would not have said this through Paul if He did not mean it.

Thus, let's approach these verses with an open heart and see what the Lord is saying here as we get into a section that deals with the submission of a woman.

### VERSES 11-12

Wow, Paul must be some kind of male chauvinist pig! Not at all.

You see, yes, the way this verse is translated it seems that Paul is saying that women are not to speak at all in the church, but that is not at all what Paul is saying here.

Let me explain.

There is a word for "**silence**," SIGAO, which means just that, but that is not the word that Paul used here.

He used the Greek word HESYCHIA for “**silence**” and it speaks of quietness, not unruly. It’s the same Greek word used in verse 2 translated “**peaceable.**”

Paul’s whole point is that women would receive the teaching of men that God has chosen to lead the church, not trying to usurp that role or fight against it. It does not mean complete silence, not at all.

And, apparently some of the women in places like Ephesus and Corinth where there was a strong feminist movement were disrupting the church services by yelling out objections to what was being taught and possibly even trying to insert themselves into the services as teachers.

Also, keep in mind that in the early church men sat on one side of the room while the women on the other.

So if the pastor said something the wife did not understand, she might yell out, “Honey, what is he talking about?”

Now we may think that is far-fetched, but we had a couple in the church years ago, and that is exactly what took place, thank God they were sitting next to each other, but she would ask him questions throughout the study. It is just distracting to me when that happens, and I am sure for others as well.

Make no mistake about it, God is a God of order and thus, by their actions, they were not submissive and causing disorder in the church service by the actions.

But here come the objections. If this is true, then why does Paul tell us Galatians 3:28-29, **“There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free, there is neither male nor female; for you are all one in Christ Jesus. And if you are Christ's, then you are Abraham's seed, and heirs according to the promise.”**

Because there is spiritual equality, men are not better than women or more spiritual than women, they just have different roles! And that is the key to me. Men and women have different roles in the church!

If there is still some confusion, we see in verse 12 Paul interpreting for us what he means in verse 11.

Let's read that verse again, verse 12. It says, **“And I do not permit a woman to teach or to have authority over a man, but to be in silence.”**

Paul is not saying that women can't teach in a church, but they cannot fill the office of a pastor/teacher in the church.

It doesn't mean that women can't teach in church but when they do it must be under the authority of the men that God has appointed to lead the church.

And specifically, women can teach children in church, as Paul tells us in II Timothy 3:15 how Timothy learned the Scriptures from his mother, **“and that from childhood you have known the Holy Scriptures, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus.”**

And in Titus 2:3-4 Paul tells us that the older women are to teach the younger women the things of God. We are told, **“the older women likewise, that they be reverent in behavior, not slanderers, not given to much wine, teachers of good things - that they admonish the young women to love their husbands, to love their children.”**

That is God's design and it was His design before the fall, before sin entered the picture.

We are told in Genesis 2:18, **“And the LORD God said, ‘It is not good that man should be alone; I will make him a helper comparable to him.’”**



A husband is the spiritual leader in the family, and men are the spiritual leaders in the church, not negating women or their role, that is just how God set things up and apart from that, there is disorder in the family and in the church!

And notice how Paul puts this together as we read on.

#### VERSES 13-14

Paul goes back to the beginning, to creation and tells us that man was created first, Adam; then woman was created, Eve. He was the spiritual leader, it was his role and God said to Adam, **“And the LORD God commanded the man, saying, ‘Of every tree of the garden you may freely eat; but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall surely die.’”** Genesis 2:16-17.

So far so good!

Then came sin as Eve lusted after that which was forbidden, she was deceived and ate the fruit.

Now, why is Eve not spoken of as the one who allowed sin to enter the world, she sinned first?

Romans 5:12 tells us of this, that Adam was blamed for sin entering the world as we are told, **“Therefore, just as through one man sin entered the world, and death through sin, and thus death spread to all men, because all sinned.”**

The reason is simple, Adam was the spiritual leader of the family, he had the authority, he had the responsibility to protect Eve and he failed. Husbands, what an important lesson for us to learn from!

Eve was deceived, Adam was not, he went in with his eyes fully open, and he knew it was wrong.

I also think women are more in tune, many times, to spiritual things than men, they are more sensitive. But they can also be deceived, not saying that men can't, but once again we are to be watching over them, protecting them, guiding them!

It is our responsibility and we have the authority to do that! You see, sin entered because man neglected being the spiritual leader and he was held accountable!

### VERSE 15

This is a very difficult passage to understand but let's see if I can shed some light on it.

First of all, some say this speaks of sparing women in childbirth, that she won't die if she is a godly woman.

Now as great as that sounds, particularly at that time, it is not true.

Godly women have died giving birth to a child and ungodly women have lived! So that can't be what Paul is talking about.

Others feel it speaks of eternal life but that makes no sense. Women are not saved because they gave birth to a child, even though I must admit, they should!

If men gave birth, we would not have a population problem!

But think about the reasoning here, think about all the godly women that can't have children, are they not saved because of that?

Of course not and our salvation is based in Christ not giving birth!

So this can't be what Paul is talking about.

Others say that Paul has laid down the role or function of men in the church – to teach, and the role for women in the church – having babies!

What a blessing to have children, but I don't see Paul saying that women are to be barefoot and pregnant, that is their role!

Let's approach this verse like this, in the context it is in.

In the original it says, ***“She will be saved in the childbirth”*** meaning that even though women were deceived, fell into transgression as we saw with Eve, they can be saved by the Messiah, for a woman brought Him into the world, she was a vessel in which God used!

I tend to lean in that direction for what Paul is speaking of here.

As Paul concludes he speaks of fruits of the Spirit, qualities that are to be evident in a woman's life and as she has nurtured her children in these things, the things of God, passing on to future generations godly men and women, what a blessing!

A woman can't pass on godliness and virtue to her children if she doesn't possess and walk in those qualities herself.

It is as Solomon said in Proverbs 1:8-9, **“My son, hear the instruction of your father, And do not forsake the law of your mother; For they will be a graceful ornament on your head, And chains about your neck.”**

As someone has said, ***“The hand that rocks the cradle is the most powerful hand of all.”***

As I close our study this evening, please understand that Paul is not putting women down, he is just speaking of their role in the church and what an important role it is.

May we not lose sight of that because God's design for the church is for order and that comes from being obedient to His Word and the position He has for each of us!