

W O M E N ' S B I B L E S T U D Y

Equipped

F O R T H E F I G H T

Roles of Men & Women

1 Timothy 2:1-15

Lesson 3

We live in a time where the roles of men and women have become very cloudy, leaving many confused. The same dilemma existed in the church that Timothy was pastoring. Since scripture clearly commands that all things be done decently and in order (1 Corinthians 14:40), Paul felt it necessary to define the roles of men and women within the congregation. As we study our passage, it is essential that we do not approach it with a “battle of the sexes” mindset. Instead, we must look to the Lord and His Word to gain insight on how men and women can work together.

Paul begins by addressing the men and makes it clear that prayer must be their priority. If they were to ever lead their family, be used in the church or have any influence in their community, they must be committed to praying. This does not mean that women should not or do not need to pray. It simply meant that the men should take the lead in this endeavor.

Paul then speaks directly to the women in the church. Since Ephesus was a wealthy commercial city, it was easy for women to compete against one another for attention and popularity. As a result, women often wore expensive jewelry and fancy hairdos. Although Paul did not forbid these things, he urged the women to present themselves modestly and to focus on inner beauty instead of outer appearance.

As you study this week, remember that this lesson is not about a rivalry between men and women, nor is it a matter of who is more important. It is a matter of recognizing God’s order within the church. Men and women of God are not to compete against one another but to complement each other so we can accomplish as much as possible for the Kingdom of God.

Open your Bible and begin with a word of prayer

This Week's Scripture: 1 Timothy 2:1-15 NLT

"I urge you, first of all, to pray for all people. Ask God to help them; intercede on their behalf, and give thanks for them. ²Pray this way for kings and all who are in authority so that we can live peaceful and quiet lives marked by godliness and dignity. ³This is good and pleases God our Savior, ⁴who wants everyone to be saved and to understand the truth. ⁵For there is only one God and one Mediator who can reconcile God and humanity—the man Christ Jesus. ⁶He gave his life to purchase freedom for everyone. This is the message God gave to the world at just the right time. ⁷And I have been chosen as a preacher and apostle to teach the Gentiles this message about faith and truth. I'm not exaggerating—just telling the truth. ⁸In every place of worship, I want men to pray with holy hands lifted up to God, free from anger and controversy. ⁹And I want women to be modest in their appearance. They should wear decent and appropriate clothing and not draw attention to themselves by the way they fix their hair or by wearing gold or pearls or expensive clothes. ¹⁰For women who claim to be devoted to God should make themselves attractive by the good things they do. ¹¹Women should learn quietly and submissively. ¹²I do not let women teach men or have authority over them. Let them listen quietly. ¹³For God made Adam first, and afterward he made Eve. ¹⁴And it was not Adam who was deceived by Satan. The woman was deceived, and sin was the result. ¹⁵But women will be saved through childbearing, assuming they continue to live in faith, love, holiness, and modesty."

This Week's Memory Verse:

***"For there is only one God and one Mediator who can reconcile God and humanity
—the man Christ Jesus." 1 Timothy 2:5 NLT***

1. In our last two lessons, Paul was exhorting Timothy to watch out for those who cause problems in the church which brought distraction and division. What does Paul now encourage Timothy to do in verses 1 and 2 of this week's scripture? _____

a. What reason is given in verse 2b for praying for these people? _____

b. What reason is given in verse 4 for praying for these people? _____

Group Discussion

Do you feel that you are able to do what verse 1 asks? Are you able to pray for those who have made things difficult for you? Do you pray for your difficult boss, our politicians, or our president?

Why or why not? _____

“Now there is a final reason I think that Jesus says, “Love your enemies.” It is this: that love has within it a redemptive power. And there is a power there that eventually transforms individuals. Just keep being friendly to that person. Just keep loving them, and they can’t stand it too long. Oh, they react in many ways in the beginning. They react with guilt feelings, and sometimes they’ll hate you a little more at that transition period, but just keep loving them. And by the power of your love they will break down under the load. That’s love, you see. It is redemptive, and this is why Jesus says love. There’s something about love that builds up and is creative.

There is something about hate that tears down and is destructive.

So love your enemies.”

– Martin Luther King Jr. (1929-1968)

2. In verses 4-6 of this week’s scripture, Paul reminds us of the simplicity of the gospel. What three things are emphasized by the apostle in these verses?

a. Verse 4: _____

b. Verse 5: _____

Mediator: One who intervenes between two people in a conflict to reconcile them together.

c. Verse 6: _____

3. Paul now turns his attention to the way we should act in the church. His first address is to the men in the church. How are they to act (v. 8)? _____

a. Why do you think this instruction needs to be mentioned? _____

4. Next, Paul addresses the women and how they should present themselves. What do the following verses tell us about this subject?

a. Verse 9a: _____

b. Verse 9b: _____

c. According to verse 10, what is the reason for these directions? _____

5. Verse 11 in the KJV says, "Let the woman learn in silence." In his commentary about this verse, Warren Wiersbe states:

'Silence' is an unfortunate translation because it gives the impression that believing women were never to open their mouths in the assembly. This is the same word that is translated "peaceable" in 1 Timothy 2:2. Some of the women abused their newfound freedom in Christ and created disturbances in the services by interrupting. It is this problem that Paul addressed in this admonition. It appears that women were in danger of upsetting the church by trying to "enjoy" their freedom.

With this statement in mind, what guidelines are given for women in verses 11 and 12?

a. This can be a difficult concept for women today, but God's Word is timeless. He has a purpose for everything He says. Are you able to rest in this truth? Why or why not?

