

1 Timothy

Week 2 - Chapter 2

Pray for your time together in God's Word!

? Can you think of a time when someone's unexpected behavior changed your impression of them for the better?

Read the passage out loud as a group.

Optional: Give the group 3 minutes to look at the passage by themselves.

1 Timothy 2:1-8 (NIV)

¹ 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 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.

? How do you think petitions, prayers, intercession and thanksgiving lead to a “quiet life?”

Possible Answers: Quiet doesn't necessarily mean silent, but a peaceful life, free from persecution, meaning a life where Christians are more fully and freely able to share the Gospel; Thanksgiving puts us in a submitted and humble position before God where our hearts are kept in peace as we trust in him

? In what sense is your life more quiet after prayer?

Possible Answers: Answers will vary depending on discussion

? Paul says to petition, pray, intercede, and give thanks for **all people**. Which of these instructions would you find most difficult to carry out and why?

Possible Answers: Answers will vary depending on discussion

? How is Paul's instruction to pray indiscriminately (ie "for all people") a reflection of God's character?

Possible Answers: God is love. His desire is that all would come to know Him and be justified before Him. The reason he is patient with all of us is because he desires that we would turn from our evil ways and be made righteous through Jesus Christ.

? What do you think is the purpose behind praying for government leaders (verse 2)?

Possible Answer: Scripture is clear that all earthly authority is under God's sovereignty

? What types of prayer might this require?

Possible Answer: praying for those with whom we agree and disagree, praying for those who actively oppose the gospel, praying that God's will would be done no matter what

? How should we view this in light of the fact that Paul lived under a government that didn't recognize, and later oppressed, his religious beliefs?

Possible Answers: As believers saved by grace, we are called to pray for our enemies and for those who persecute us (Matthew 5:44)

? Verses 5 and 6 speak of Christ as a mediator. How does Jesus act as a mediator between us and God?

Possible Answers: 2 Corinthians 5:21. A mediator is one who acts as a go-between to work with two opposing sides in order to settle some kind of violation between the two parties. A mediator attempts to influence a disagreement between two parties with the goal of resolving a dispute. There is only one Mediator between mankind and God and that is Jesus Christ. Meaning, Jesus is the only one capable of resolving this dispute. Nothing we could do on our own would be sufficient to make us righteous enough to stand before a holy God (Isaiah 64:6; Romans 3:20) But Jesus' death sacrifice acted as our punishment and our union with Christ gives us the righteousness to stand before a Holy God.

? How should our standing before God, through Christ's mediation, drive us to pray for the leaders in our family/community/country?

Possible Answers: We know that the gospel of Jesus is the only hope for this world and we pray to that end, just as we were saved freely by grace we desire that our leaders too come to a knowledge of the gospel and live out his will on earth.

? Who are the leaders in your life you can be praying for?

Read Out Loud: In his letters, Paul would often speak to specific issues affecting particular communities of believers. 1 Timothy 2 seems to be such a passage. When we read through a passage like this we should remind ourselves that the local church was wrestling with specific (though sometimes unclear) sin issues. However, this does not mean this passage of scripture has expired. On the contrary, we sometimes need to work extra hard to understand the gospel's truths that apply to all people.

1 Timothy 2:8-15 (NIV)

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.

? How might our behavior, as believers, affect others' views of God?

Possible Answers: our behavior may reflect and reveal Christ more fully, or it may overshadow or distort the gospel

? What are some examples (either from your personal experience or culturally) that the gospel has been either furthered or hindered by the actions of believers?

? How would a Christian adorn themselves with good deeds, and why does Paul find this more appropriate?

Possible Answer: In our culture men and women tend to be defined and judged by their looks. Paul wants to shift the focus from how a woman looks to what her behavior reflects (a principle that can be applied to men as well). As Christians we should stand out for our desire to serve God. Christians should spend more time and money in caring for others, than in decorating themselves and their household

? Verse 15 is an often debated verse in Scripture for which numerous interpretations have been put forth. What do we do when we encounter difficult passages of Scripture?

Possible Answers: Consider the verse in light of the whole canon of scripture, ask ourselves how we can understand it through the filter of the gospel, search out resources from trusted sources, prayerfully consider the passage and pray for the Spirit's guidance

? How does community play a role in addressing difficult parts of Scripture?

Possible Answers: We don't come to conclusions in isolation, we seek godly counsel and insight from trusted leaders and other people in our community, we hold one another accountable in how we approach and study Scripture

For Discussion & Accountability

? Who are the people that are hardest for you to pray for? How can we pray this week for your heart toward them?

? What else is challenging you from our discussion today?