

Order for the Sake of the Gospel
1 Timothy: Sound Doctrine in a Noisy World

March 1, 2026

¹I 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 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.

1 Timothy 2:1-15 NLT

Questions for Personal Reflection and Group Discussion

1. Read 1 Timothy 2:1-4.

What is Paul's first instruction for Timothy (and the Ephesian church) in verse 1? Who would 'all people' include? Is anyone exempt?

What does Paul say we are to pray for and with what heart posture?

Why do you think Paul emphasizes mercy and thanks?

Paul has already said to pray for all people. Why do you think he specifically mentions kings and other authorities and for what reasons does he say to pray?

In what way is praying the easiest thing to do and in what way is it the most difficult?

For whom are you praying consistently? Are you praying for the leaders of our church, city, state and nation? How might praying for them impact their lives? How might praying for them impact your heart?

2. Read 1 Timothy 2:5-7.

Why does it matter that Jesus is fully God? Why does it matter that Jesus is fully man? For whom did Jesus give His life to purchase freedom?

How does Paul describe his role in the spreading of the gospel?

As a follower of Jesus, you have also been chosen to share the gospel. How and with whom are you doing so?

3. Read 1 Timothy 2:8.

What does it mean to have 'holy hands'? Why would having holy hands be important when praying?

Is there anything you are holding onto in your life that keeps you from having holy hands? What might God be asking you to let go of?

4. Read 1 Timothy 2:9-10.

What is the purpose of Paul's instruction to the women in Ephesus? What did Paul say was to be attractive about their lives? What is attractive about yours?

5. Read 1 Timothy 2:11-15.

Why is it important that learning and humility come before leading and authority? What happens when we get the order wrong... in our own lives, in the Church, and in our world?