

Life in Community
A Praying Community
1 Timothy 2:1-8

- I. A Call To Self-Sacrificing Prayer (1-2)
 - A. Four distinct words used in verse 1
 - 1. Entreaties – urgent, perceived needs
 - 2. Prayers – general requests made of God
 - 3. Petitions – intercession
 - 4. Thanksgiving – Giving thanks for the object prayed for
 - B. All *kinds of men*
 - 1. In this case: kings and governing officials
 - 2. This is crucial to demonstrate the nature of prayer in the community and its role in gospel living
 - C. Consider the situation: Nero
 - 1. Steady increase of persecution of believers
 - 2. Fire to Rome in 64 – blamed on Christians
 - 3. Pray for these kinds of people; not just your friends and family and those who love/like you
 - D. The pursuit of “tranquil and quiet” life
 - 1. Starting with the internal
 - 2. Hoping for the external
- II. Why Genuine Prayer Is Not “Wish-Fulfillment” (3-7)
 - A. This kind of praying is good in the sight of God
 - B. Why?
 - 1. Desires All *kinds of men* to be saved

- 2. Come to the knowledge of the truth
 - C. The Context of Jesus as the mediator and ransom – full gospel reality
 - D. THIS is the content and direction of prayer – that God might supernaturally and sovereignly work in the hearts and minds of even the church’s greatest opponents to come to a proper understanding of Jesus (at the very best) or that those opponents would be so moved by the hand of God to allow for peace in their day, that godliness and Christian dignity might have room to demonstrate itself on society and culture at large (at the least)
 - E. This kind of prayer has coupled with it life action that demonstrates transformation in an outward, identifiable way
- III. Prayer in the Context of Community (8)
 - A. We are all called to pray together collectively in this way
 - B. In “holiness” (cleanness of heart and life)
 - C. Without proper relationship to one another
 - 1. Without wrath – Outbursts of anger
 - 2. Without dissension – Arguing over differences of opinion
 - 3. Cf. – Matthew 5:22-24