

We have been looking at what Paul wrote to Timothy, that God was concerned the gospel was preached to all, and that prayers were made for all. There is only one way and we need God's help to stay on it. Now it might seem as if Paul is mixed up here as you read verse 8 and that he is going backwards talking about prayer but that isn't correct. Paul is now getting to some very straight forward advice on our behavior. This is different from the general expression about God's will and our responsibility within it. He is going to be addressing men and women, contrasting them and dealing with them in their respective roles with their respective weaknesses. It is a section of scripture that is much needed in our day. Join us as we get started on the roles of men and women in the Church.

- Paul is here starting to get specific.
 - **1 Timothy 3:14-15** ¹⁴ “These things I write to you, though I hope to come to you shortly; ¹⁵ 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.”
 - **1 Timothy 2:8** “I desire therefore that the men pray everywhere, lifting up holy hands, without wrath and doubting;”
 - He now starts to teach the roles of men and women.
 - Complementarianism vs. egalitarianism
 - Men and women are different, not just in form and appearance, but in design and function.
 - Traditional view and the biblical view. Each was created different, with different functions.
 - **1 Timothy 2** and **3** are among the strongest supporters for this understanding.
 - Egalitarian –
 - **Galatians 3:27-29** ²⁷ “For as many of you as were baptized into Christ have put on Christ. ²⁸ 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. ²⁹ And if you *are* Christ's, then you are Abraham's seed, and heirs according to the promise.”
 - Salvation. There is one way, one salvation...
 - **Ephesians 4:1-6** ¹ “I, therefore, the prisoner of the Lord, beseech you to walk worthy of the calling with which you were called, ² with all lowliness and gentleness, with longsuffering, bearing with one another in love, ³ endeavoring to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace. ⁴ *There is* one body and one Spirit, just as you were called in one hope of your calling; ⁵ one Lord, one faith, one baptism; ⁶ one God and Father of all, who is above all, and through all, and in you all.”
 - But ... He gave gifts according to His grace... Each one gets what God gives... different gifts.
 - Similar salvation, similar value, different roles and responsibilities.
- **1 Timothy 2:8** “I desire therefore that the men pray everywhere, lifting up holy hands, without wrath and doubting;”
 - Everywhere: In the churches
 - **1 Co 1:2** “To the church of God which is at Corinth, to those who are sanctified in Christ Jesus, called *to be* saints, with all who in every place call on the name of Jesus Christ our Lord, both theirs and ours:”
 - Not a repeal of
 - **Mathew 6:5** ⁵ “And when you pray, you shall not be like the hypocrites. For they love to pray standing in the synagogues and on the corners of the streets, that they may be seen by men. Assuredly, I say to you, they have their reward.”

- Men are to pray...
 - Paul is pointing out the needs of men and women, particularly in the Church, but with application to all of life. It is clearer in the section on women in verse 9-10 where Paul will compare outward with inward adornments.
 - 2 issues here
 - First Men have the tendency to think that “I can do it!”
 - We don’t ask for help, we don’t want to appear weak, indecisive....
 - Modern society demands that men step back from leadership. We honor strong women and weak men. Those men that stand with definite principles are held up as uncaring, chauvinistic, racist, bigots, etc.
 - Funny part is that it has come into the church. We have let slip our right place in the home and in the church. God gave us these duties and nowhere does He take them away.
 - Before sin.
 - **Gen 2:15** “Then the LORD God took the man and put him in the Garden of Eden to tend and keep it.” – Work and responsibilities.
 - **Gen 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.*” – Man’s helper, companion. Someone uniquely designed for his needs.
 - After sin.
 - **Gen 3:16** “To the woman He said: I will greatly multiply your sorrow and your conception; In pain you shall bring forth children; Your desire *shall be* for your husband, And he shall rule over you.”
 - **Gen 3:17-19** “¹⁷ Then to Adam He said, Because you have heeded the voice of your wife, and have eaten from the tree of which I commanded you, saying, You shall not eat of it: Cursed is the ground for your sake; In toil you shall eat *of* it All the days of your life. ¹⁸ Both thorns and thistles it shall bring forth for you, And you shall eat the herb of the field. ¹⁹ In the sweat of your face you shall eat bread Till you return to the ground, For out of it you were taken; For dust you *are*, And to dust you shall return.”
- Physically designed different. (generalities...)
 - Not just the plumbing and reproductive organs.
 - Men have larger hearts, lungs, bones, muscles, more body mass, and body hair. They burn calories faster and burn more of them, live shorter lives and get sick more often than women. Average man is 30% stronger than an average woman due to his genetics. This also makes them larger on average.
 - Women have larger livers and kidneys, lower blood pressure with a faster heartbeat, more % of body fat per pound, better eye sight. They get sick less and mature more quickly and live longer.
 - Created different with different desires and tastes. Women were created as a complement to men.
- So God now gives men and women their place in the church of God. Men are to be the leaders. They are to lead in prayer.
 - This was a continuation from Judaism. Only men were to teach or pray in the temple or synagogue.
 - **1 Co 11:5** “But every woman who prays or prophesies with *her* head uncovered dishonors her head, for that is one and the same as if her head were shaved.”

- **1 Co 14:26-35** ²⁶ How is it then, brethren? Whenever you come together, each of you has a psalm, has a teaching, has a tongue, has a revelation, has an interpretation. Let all things be done for edification. ²⁷ If anyone speaks in a tongue, *let there be* two or at the most three, *each* in turn, and let one interpret. ²⁸ But if there is no interpreter, let him keep silent in church, and let him speak to himself and to God. ²⁹ Let two or three prophets speak, and let the others judge. ³⁰ But if *anything* is revealed to another who sits by, let the first keep silent. ³¹ For you can all prophesy one by one, that all may learn and all may be encouraged. ³² And the spirits of the prophets are subject to the prophets. ³³ For God is not *the author* of confusion but of peace, as in all the churches of the saints. ³⁴ Let your women keep silent in the churches, for they are not permitted to speak; but they are to be submissive, as the law also says. ³⁵ And if they want to learn something, let them ask their own husbands at home; for it is shameful for women to speak in church.

- **1 Co. 12-14** are an explanation of the gifts and their uses. They are for **the edification of the Church**. This is why Paul can say that women are to be silent in church.
- It is also why men are to lead in prayer during the service. It is for the edification of the Church.

- How should we pray?

- We are leading the congregation to God.
- Humble.
- Loud enough to be heard.
- Glorify God.
- Can be in the Plural – We come to you....
- Should be in accordance with Scripture. Salvation of the lost, our country, understand the love of Christ, the will of God, forsake sin, confession, repentance, understanding of the Word, Holy Spirit, help to obey, help to hear, etc.

- I also want you to notice a couple of things about prayer here!

- It is based on the word of God. We pray because God commands it.
- It is always to also be based on the will of God. We pray for what God desires, the salvation of men, our leaders, peaceful lives so we can witness....
 - This should give us our motivation. I am praying because God wants me to petition him, and I am praying for what He has asked so I can pray with a fervent heart because I am asking God in the way God wants for what God wants and I can have faith that I am squarely in the will of God when I do this.
 - Notice if you give up this privilege and authority, we lose this fervent faith as well.
- Not about self, but obedience. Privilege for all believers to pray. It is a responsibility for men to lead the church in prayer.

- Lifting up holy hands.

- Not a position, but an expression of speech showing a holy life style.
- Showing you hands was a sign of peace. No weapons. Here it is even more pronounced. Holy hands, hands that have been set apart to do God's will, to live according to God's pattern.

- Without wrath or doubting... Not in anger, sin, vengeance, or with no belief in God.

- Hebrews 11:6 "But without faith *it is* impossible to please *Him*, for he who comes to God must believe that He is, and *that* He is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him."

Let us set ourselves to be the men that God has called us to be: Men of God, who live out the will of God in our lives and in the Church.

2Co 13:14 ¹⁴ The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit *be* with you all. Amen.