

## 1 TIMOTHY 2:8-15

In the local church in Ephesus there was the problem of false teaching that was distracting the church from its mission of preaching the gospel and making disciples.

Paul writes to Timothy and the big message is... "Sort out the church for the sake of the gospel!"

The first way he is to do this is found in 1 Timothy 1:1-2:7 where he is told to silence the false teachers and fight for the gospel.

The church fights for the gospel by praying for all people especially those in authority (2:1-7) – that they will be saved because God's desire is to save all people; that we will be free to preach the gospel and live godly lives.

### A. Introduction

1. These are controversial verses.

Remember though who is speaking.

Paul is apostle, one who spoke and wrote with the authority of Christ.

This is Jesus Himself addressing us.

2. Application

Are we listening to the world or are we listening to Christ?

We cannot pick and choose which verses from the Bible we are going to obey.

3. Big Point: The church fights for the gospel by displaying the gospel (2:8-15).

Addresses three areas where the church is in danger of listening to the world and not to Christ.

How does the church display the gospel?

### B. Through praying men dependent upon God

"I desire then that in every place the men should pray, lifting holy hands without anger or quarrelling." (v8)

1. The men in the church should take the lead in praying.

Through praying they express their dependence upon God – it's the opposite of the self-made man.

Men get angry and quarrel when things don't go their way, but their attitude when this happen should be trust in God.

2. Application

Men should take the lead in prayer in both the home and the church (It was encouraging to see the number of men at the last prayer meeting).

When visitors come to this local church, do they see people venting their anger, infighting, and hostility or do they see people who are dependent upon God.

### B. Through godly women dressed modestly

“Likewise also that women should adorn themselves in respectable apparel, with modesty and self-control, not with braided hair and gold or pearls or costly attire, but with what is proper for women who profess godliness – with good works.” (v9-10)

1. The problem seems to be that the women were dressed like the world outside.

The culture of the world was creeping into the church.

They coming to church dressed like the local prostitute in Ephesus.

Sexually provocative.

2. The women in the church should dress as someone who has come to worship God.

God is far more interested in what they do than how they look.

That doesn't mean they should boycott jewellers or hairdressers.

That doesn't mean they should dress in a way that is dull or unfashionable.

3. Application

Now if a women turns up on a regular basis to church inappropriately (way that is sexually provocative) as elders we should probably say something or rather get an appropriate individual to have a quiet word.

Implication for what we teach our young people – striking the right balance between trendy and modesty.

When visitors come to this local church, do they see a group of people dressed to impress or people serving one another and who are looking for further ways to do this.

### **C. Through male leadership in the church**

“Let a woman learn quietly with all submissiveness. I do not permit a woman to teach or to exercise authority over a man; rather, she is to remain quiet. For Adam was formed first, then Eve; and Adam was not deceived, but the woman was deceived and became a transgressor. Yet she will be saved through childbearing – if they continue in faith and love and holiness, with self-control.” (v11-15)

1. A few qualifiers.

Paul is not saying that women are inferior to men – they are equal in creation and salvation.

Paul is not saying that women are not very good at teaching or shouldn't teaching in other situations.

Paul is not saying that all women must submit to all men (only to husband/elders).

Paul is not saying that women are more susceptible to false teaching.

Paul is not saying that women should not come up with any ideas.

Paul is not saying that women have nothing to say to men or that men can't learn from women.

2. Women are prohibited from teaching and having authority over men.

Women in Ephesus were taking on roles they shouldn't be doing.

3. This command is rooted in creation.

Adam was created first, placed in the garden with the task of naming, working and protecting the garden from evil.

The fact that there was a serpent in the garden suggests that Adam wasn't doing his job properly – he failed to protect his wife.

The responsibility for keeping the serpent out of the church is the elders (they fulfil Adam's role in the church).

When women usurp the men's task we have a repeat of what happened in the garden.

### 3. Women display the gospel by accepting this position.

Not saved by childbirth (infertile or single women would be excluded).

A sign that Jesus has saved them, and that they are continuing in faith, love, holiness and self-control is they will embrace and submit to what Jesus says their God-given role is (which includes childbearing, raising of godly children who hear of Jesus and what He has done).

### 4. Application

We must appreciate, affirm and value the work of women in the church.

We must affirm the value of biblical womanhood.

The role of elder and of preaching on Sundays is for qualified men only.

When visitors come to this local church, do they see a group of people whose understanding of their role is shaped by God's Word and not by the world at large.