

## Gender Roles in God's household 1 Timothy 2:8-15

Are there any differences, other than physical ones, between men and women?

### Men and prayer - Read 1 Timothy 2:8.

1. What activity are men called to undertake?

2. How should the activity be carried out?

3. What does it mean to pray with "holy hands"? How is this explained in the rest of the sentence?

### Women and worship - Read 1 Timothy 2:9-10.

4. Describe the principles involved in a Christian woman deciding what to wear. Will this mean that Christian women will be different from their local culture?

5. What might it mean to dress "with good works"? also see 1 Tim 5:9-10

### Creation Foundations as Male & Female - Turn to Genesis 1-2.

6. In Genesis 1:26-28, "man" is made to rule the earth and all the creatures in it. Can you tell whether this refers to the male alone, or the male and the female together?

7. Why was the woman created? (See Genesis 2:15-25.)

8. How would you describe the authority relationship between God, Adam, the woman, and the rest of creation? (also see 1 Corth 11:3)

### Read Genesis 3:1-19.

9. There are three cases of authority being overthrown in this passage, and three sets of consequences. What are they?

|    | Authority overthrown | Consequences of the fall |
|----|----------------------|--------------------------|
| 1. |                      |                          |
| 2. |                      |                          |
| 3. |                      |                          |

### Read 1 Timothy 2:11-15.

10. What positive thing are women commanded to do in verse 11?

#### SIDEBAR: Translation note

The ESV translation of "quietly" in verse 11 is probably better than "in silence", as some other versions translate it. It is the same Greek word as in verse 2 (the "quiet" life) & also verse 12.

11. In what way should they do it?

do to bring your life into line with the principles taught in 1 Timothy 2:9-10?

12. From the context of the passage, to whom is a woman supposed to submit?

- As you read verses 8-15, do they appear to convey general commands to Christian women and men in all situations? Is there anything about them that seems limited to the particular situation Timothy was in? (also see 1 Corth 14:33-34)

13. How is this submission to be expressed?

- How are you tempted to fall into Adam and Eve's trap of overturning the authority of God's created order? How can you avoid this temptation? How can you help others in this area?

14. What reasons are given?

- How can a woman's teaching gift be used in the congregation? (See Titus 2:3-4.)

## Implications

(Choose one or more of the following to think about further or to discuss in your group.)

- Men: when faced with a problem, is your first instinct to get angry and defensive, or to pray? What can you do to bring your life into line with the principle taught in 1 Timothy 2:8?
- Everyone: It is common in many churches and families for women to be more likely to pray than men. Why might this be the case?
- Women: with what do you primarily adorn yourself—make-up, jewellery and costly attire, or modesty and good works? What can you

## Give thanks and pray

- Give thanks for all of God's word, including the parts you find difficult to understand or accept. Ask God again for wisdom in understanding and accepting these parts.
- Ask God to give you a spirit of humble obedience to his word.
- Ask God to help you obey him even when it is so counter-cultural to do so.
- Using 1 Timothy 2:8-15 as a guide, pray for yourselves and for the men and women in your church.