

Intro:

In the second half of 1 Timothy 2, Paul continues his instruction on the church gathered, zeroing in on the roles of men and women and how they should compliment one another. This passage is controversial, but that should not dissuade us from pressing in to the design for men and women that God lays out here.

Questions for Discussion:

1. In v8, Paul exhorts men to pray, lifting holy hands without anger or quarreling. The word 'then' in this verse connects it with vv1-7 that trumpets the truth that the church exists to put on display the message that Jesus has died for all types of people, not just a select group. So, Paul is calling men to take the lead in this mission and to put down their anger and in-fighting.

–Discuss how sinful anger in particular neutralizes a man's ability to lead and be an example.

–What are a few practical ways men in the church can lead their families spiritually?

2. In v9, Paul exhorts women to modesty in not only their dress, but also their comportment. In Ephesian culture, wealthy women would often use their ability to dress in costly attire as a means of influence. Additionally, much of the city was influenced by the worship of a female greek goddess that promoted a carnal sexuality.

–Do you see parallels with our culture and the setting in Ephesus regarding the sensuality and objectification of women? Discuss the the impact this has on society and what it means to be a woman.

–Discuss how this warped expression of womanhood can negatively impact the culture of a church.

3. In vv11-12, Paul says that women should remain quiet and not teach or have authority over men in the church. When we read this together with 1 Corinthians 11:5, where Paul accepts a women speaking (prophesying) in the church in a respectful way, we see that Paul is clearly not saying women cannot speak at all in church. Rather, it seems he is saying that the authoritative speech associated with preaching, teaching and leadership is

something women should not do in the gathered assembly with both men and women present. He then grounds this logic not in a consequence of sin or lack of ability, but rather in God's order of creation when he says in v13 that Adam was formed first, then Eve.

–This is one of the most controversial passages in the Bible. Take time to discuss how this truth challenges our culture's understanding of the roles of men and women.

–Although the text says Eve was deceived first, it is important to note that Adam's passivity and lack of leadership made Eve vulnerable. Discuss the importance of men taking the initiative in a godly, humble, Christlike way in leading their families and churches. (Read Ephesians 5:22-33 for Paul's exhortation to men to lead like Christ in their homes)

Leader note: CrossPointe holds to a complementary view of the relationship between the genders. This means that while God has certainly created men and women equal in value and worth, He has give then different roles that do not compete, but rather complement one another.