

1 Timothy 2

Read 1 Timothy 2:1-7: Paul reminds Timothy that it is time to pray for our government leaders. It is for our own quality of life. He wants them to be saved as well. What about the leaders who we disagree with? All the more reason to pray for them. We tend to focus on the nut jobs in office, and contrary politician decisions. This letter was written at the time when the brutal Caesars were ruling the Roman empire with an iron fist. We do not have to like the politician; but we do have to respect the office. We are seeing what happens when people stop obeying the law and disrespecting the public office.

Let everyone be subject to the governing authorities, for there is no authority except that which God has established. The authorities that exist have been established by God. ²Consequently, whoever rebels against the authority is rebelling against what God has instituted, and those who do so will bring judgment on themselves. ³For rulers hold no terror for those who do right, but for those who do wrong. Do you want to be free from fear of the one in authority? Then do what is right and you will be commended. ⁴For the one in authority is God's servant for your good. But if you do wrong, be afraid, for rulers do not bear the sword for no reason. They are God's servants, agents of wrath to bring punishment on the wrongdoer. ⁵Therefore, it is necessary to submit to the authorities, not only because of possible punishment but also as a matter of conscience. ⁶This is also why you pay taxes, for the authorities are God's servants, who give their full time to governing. ⁷Give to everyone what you owe them: If you owe taxes, pay taxes; if revenue, then revenue; if respect, then respect; if honor, then honor. (Romans 13:1-7)

Read 1 Timothy 2:8-16: Society only works if people exhibit deference and civility. Tantrums and complaining and endless debating is individualistic; and does not make for a good society. There are always going to be offenses between men. There are always reasons to be offended; if you are looking into those things. It is better to keep our minds on the Kingdom of heaven.

Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. ⁷And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus. ⁸Finally, brothers and sisters, whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable—if anything is excellent or praiseworthy—think about such things. (Philippians 4:6-8)

Paul wants Timothy to restore the family unit. That is the building block for society. Broken homes create broken businesses and cities. Those who obey government and look out for their neighbors usually come from respectful and loving homes. Respect for parents creates respect for leadership. Those who learn respect for family members and their roles are more likely to respect employers, government leaders, and their neighbors. The most-basic unit of family is the relationship between husband and wife. That is to be held above the child and parent relationship. When this becomes upside down, you end up with an inept or constrained husband and father.

The man is supposed to answer to God for the order and direction in his household. The man is supposed to be the head of his household; but his wife may make most of the daily practical selections and daily decisions. It is common for the wife to shoulder the majority (or all) of the domestic responsibilities; especially if the husband is in the armed services; or works abroad. There is no problem letting the capable one do what comes naturally. Women can be better than men at many things. A man can become lazy if his wife seems to be able to do everything. A capable and motivated wife, married to a lazy and unengaged man can misrepresent how a house should ideally run.

Women can serve in church leadership; but not as the top leader of the local church. They can lead in women's and children's ministries, as well as elsewhere. The gifting of the woman is to be a *help mate*. That means that she is capable of carrying out the day to day necessities for family needs. Women tend to be the most-tender and nurturing and who hold the family unit together. They are better communicators and they are more sensitive and compassionate.

Women's gifting can also be misused. Women are to avoid miscommunicating. They are to not show off their bodies to attract attention. They should dress in a way that does not create lust among men, or envy among women. We should not make others uncomfortable; or put on a show. People will see who you are once they can observe what you stand for. Trying to impress with fancy clothes or cars is not wise or humble.