

PRAYER AND MINISTRY

My Apostle Paul was Rex Ellis, Kel Willis, Keith Farmer and JKB!

1 Timothy 2 (NIV) ¹I urge, then, first of all, that petitions, prayers, intercession and thanksgiving be made for all people— ²for kings and all those in authority, that we may live peaceful and quiet lives in all godliness and holiness. ³This is good, and pleases God our Savior, ⁴who wants all people to be saved and to come to a knowledge of the truth. ⁵For there is one God and one mediator between God and mankind, the man Christ Jesus, ⁶who gave himself as a ransom for all people. This has now been witnessed to at the proper time. ⁷And for this purpose I was appointed a herald and an apostle—I am telling the truth, I am not lying—and a true and faithful teacher of the Gentiles.

Paul advises Timothy to get some order in the church at Ephesus – their new found freedoms weren't having the desired impact in the life of the church.

PRAYER V1-7

1.1 The priority of prayer (v. 1a). “First of all” indicates that prayer is most important in the public worship of the church. It is sad to see how prayer has lost importance in many churches.

“If we announce a family meal, people will come out of the woodwork to attend. But if we announce a prayer meeting, we're fortunate if the ministry team show up!

Peter Deyneka Sr., was the founder of the Slavic Gospel Association, he would often say, “Much prayer, much power! No prayer, no power!”

1.2 The variety of prayer (v. 1b). There are at least seven different Greek nouns for “prayer,” and four of them are used here.

1.2.1 Petitions carries the idea of “offering a request for a felt need.”

1.2.2 Prayers is the commonest term for this activity, and it emphasizes the sacredness of prayer. We are praying *to God*; prayer is an act of worship, not just an expression of our wants and needs. There should be reverence in our hearts as we pray and listen to God.

1.2.3 Intercessions The basic meaning is “to draw near to a person and converse confidently with him.” It suggests that we enjoy fellowship with God so that we have confidence in Him as we pray.

1.2.4 Giving of thanks is definitely a part of worship and prayer. We not only give thanks for answers to prayer, but for who God is and what He does for us in His grace. ¹

1.3 The objects of prayer (vv. 1c–2). “All men” makes it clear that no person on earth is outside the influence of believing prayer.

Paul urged the church to especially pray for those in authority. Godless Emperor Nero was on the throne at that time, and yet the believers were supposed to pray for him! Even when we cannot respect men or women in authority, we must respect their offices and pray for them. In fact, it is for our own good that we do so:

¹ We should not simply add our thanksgiving to the end of a selfish prayer! Thanksgiving should be an important ingredient in all of our prayers. In fact, sometimes we need to imitate David and present to God *only* thanksgiving with no petitions at all! (see Ps. 103)

1 Timothy 2:2b, NIV "that we may live peaceful and quiet lives in all godliness and holiness"

1.4 The reasons for prayer (vv. 3–4). The word "good" is a key word in Paul's pastoral epistles.

The Greek word emphasizes the idea of something being intrinsically good, not just good in its effects.²

But prayer is also pleasing to the Lord.³

The purpose of prayer is not to get man's will done in heaven, but to get God's will done on earth.

1.5 The basis for prayer (vv. 5–7). Many believers do not realize that prayer is based on the work of Jesus Christ as Saviour and Mediator. As the God-Man, Jesus Christ is the perfect Mediator between the holy God and His failing children. Pray in Jesus name!

One of Job's complaints had to do with the absence of a mediator who could take his message to the throne of God.

Job 9:33 (NASB) "There is no umpire between us, who may lay his hand upon us both"

Paulus Trimanto - Jogjakarta

WORSHIP PRINCIPLES FOR MEN AND WOMEN – NOT WHAT THEY LOOK LIKE AT FIRST GLANCE! V8-15

1 Timothy 2:8-15 (NIV) ⁸Therefore I want the men everywhere to pray, lifting up holy hands without anger or disputing. ⁹I also want the women to dress modestly, with decency and propriety, adorning themselves, not with elaborate hairstyles or gold or pearls or expensive clothes, ¹⁰but with good deeds, appropriate for women who profess to worship God. ¹¹A woman should learn in quietness and full submission. ¹²I do not permit a woman to teach or to assume authority over a man; she must be quiet. ¹³For Adam was formed first, then Eve. ¹⁴And Adam was not the one deceived; it was the woman who was deceived and became a sinner. ¹⁵But women will be saved through childbearing—if they continue in faith, love and holiness with propriety.

MEN v8

Paul stated definitely that "men" should pray in the local assembly. This was a problem for the men! It's my experience that women pray more than men. I want the men to pray

The important thing is not the state of our body but the state of our hearts!

² The word "good" is a key word in Paul's pastoral epistles (1 Tim. 1:8, 18; 2:3; 3:1, 7, 13; 4:4, 6; 5:4, 10, 25; 6:12–13, 18–19; 2 Tim. 1:14; 2:3; 4:7; Titus 2:7, 14; 3:8, 14). The Greek word emphasizes the idea of something being intrinsically good, not just good in its effects. "Fair" and "beautiful" are synonyms.

³ It pleases the Father when His children pray as He has commanded them to. The Pharisees prayed in order to be praised by men (Matt. 6:5) or to impress other worshipers (Luke 18:9–14). True Christians pray in order to please God. This suggests that we must pray in the will of God, because it certainly does not please the Father when we pray selfishly (James 4:1–10; 1 John 5:14–15).

MEN & WOMEN's POSTURE

Both men and women prayed and ministered in the early church (1 Cor. 11:4–5)

Our traditional posture of bowing the head, folding the hands, and closing the eyes is nowhere found or commanded in Scripture.⁴

- standing with outstretched hands
- kneeling
- standing
- sitting
- bowing the head
- lifting the eyes
- falling on the ground

MEN v8 - Paul also stated three essentials for effective prayer for the MEN

Holy hands, without anger, without disputing (arguments)

Women - Diana Influence – v9-10

The fourth, and perhaps most significant, reason for the prominence of Ephesus was religion. The Temple of Artemis (or Diana, according to her Roman name) at Ephesus ranked as one of the Seven Wonders of the Ancient World. As the twin sister of Apollo and the daughter of Zeus, Artemis was known variously as the moon goddess, the goddess of hunting, and the patroness of young girls. The temple at Ephesus housed the image of Artemis that was reputed to have come directly from Zeus (Acts 19:35) – made out of an asteroid! Women played a leading role in society – they were deified, sacred prostitution – often led the way – Paul wasn't giving a blanket statement – for all time! He was addressing a Pastoral issue for the Ephesian Church – for a fuller treatment of this – Have a look at the truth for living pamphlet and you can study it more fully.

I also want the women to dress modestly, with decency and propriety, adorning themselves, not with elaborate hairstyles or gold or pearls or expensive clothes, but with good deeds, appropriate for women who profess to worship God.

Women - Not a Blanket all time principle – Ephesus addressed v11-12 - A woman should learn in quietness and full submission. ¹²I do not permit a woman to teach or to assume authority over a man; she must be quiet.

Men v13-14 - For Adam was formed first, then Eve. And Adam was not the one deceived; it was the woman who was deceived and became a sinner.

Women v15 - But women will be saved through childbearing—if they continue in faith, love and holiness with propriety – **Jesus**

WRAP

1 Timothy 2: 11–15 (The Message) I don't let women take over and tell the men what to do. They should study to be quiet and obedient along with everyone else. Adam was made first, then Eve; woman was deceived first—our pioneer in sin!—with Adam right on her heels. On the other hand, her childbearing brought about salvation, reversing Eve. But this salvation only

⁴ Actually, there are many prayer postures found in the Bible: standing with outstretched hands (1 Kings 8:22); kneeling (Dan. 6:10); standing (Luke 18:11); sitting (2 Sam. 7:18); bowing the head (Gen. 24:26); lifting the eyes (John 17:1); falling on the ground (Gen. 17:3). The important thing is not the posture of the body but the posture of the heart.

comes to those who continue in faith, love, and holiness, gathering it all into maturity. You can depend on this.