

Lesson 3: Peace in the church (1st Timothy 2)

Homework assignment: Read 1st Timothy 2 and answer the following question, “How could peace be a relevant theme throughout this chapter?”

Objectives: At the end of the class we should be able to...

1. List the instructions Paul gives to us as men and women
2. Describe how prayer should be used to create and maintain peace in the church
3. Explain why God desires peace in the church
4. Identify which theme this chapter supports

Questions on the text: (1st Timothy 2)

A) Group Questions for Men and Women: (1 Tim. 2: 8 - 12)

Men: (vs. 8)

- Paul tells the men to pray without wrath and dissension. What does praying with wrath or dissension look like? Give the class two examples of how someone can overcome the temptation to pray with wrath or dissension and pursue peace instead.

Women: (vs. 9 - 12)

- Paul instructs women to be modest and to learn in silence with all submission. How can modesty and submission maintain peace in the church? Give the class two examples of when someone could show this Christ-like behavior.

B) Analyzing Prayer as it relates to Peace: (1 Tim. 2:1-2, 8)

1. What two types of prayers does Paul instruct?
 - a. How do the two different prayers create peace?
2. Paul says to pray for ‘all men in authority’ so that we may live peaceful lives. Certainly this makes sense in their time due to the brutal persecution they faced and it is also relevant to brothers and sisters in our world today. How might this instruction still be helpful to us in a society where we can worship freely? What would be in these prayers specifically?
3. What does Paul mean by ‘lifting up holy hands’ and how does that relate to prayer? Could Psalm 141:2 be a clue?

2 First of all, then, I urge that requests, prayers, intercession, *and* thanksgiving be made in behalf of all people, ²for kings and all who are in authority, so that we may lead a tranquil and quiet life in all godliness and-dignity. ³This is good and acceptable in the sight of God our Savior, ⁴who wants all people to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth. ⁵For there is one God, *and* one mediator also between God and mankind, *the* man Christ Jesus, ⁶who gave Himself as a ransom for all, the testimony *given* at the proper time. ⁷For this I was appointed as a preacher and an apostle (I am telling the truth, I am not lying), as a teacher of the Gentiles in faith and truth. ⁸Therefore I want the men in every place to pray, lifting up holy hands, without anger and dispute. ⁹Likewise, *I want* women to adorn themselves with proper clothing, modestly and discreetly, not with braided hair and gold or pearls or expensive apparel, ¹⁰but rather by means of good works, as is proper for women making a claim to godliness. ¹¹A woman must quietly receive instruction with entire submissiveness. ¹²But I do not allow a woman to teach or to exercise authority over a man, but to remain quiet. ¹³For *it was* Adam *who* was first created, *and* then Eve. ¹⁴And *it was* not Adam *who* was deceived, but the woman was deceived and became a wrongdoer. ¹⁵But women will be preserved through childbirth if they continue in faith, love, and sanctity, with moderation.

C) God's desire for peace in the church: (1 Tim. 2:3-4)

Men: In your group answer these questions. Paul writes that a godly and peaceful life is good in the sight of God and goes on to say that God is willing for all to be saved and come to the truth. Does a quiet and peaceful life almost seem counterproductive to reaching the lost? In today's world we see agendas being pushed through protests, riots, media and more. Why would God then desire for us to have a peaceful and quiet life if He also wants all men to know the truth? How could a peaceful life actually bring about God's plan to bring everyone to the truth?

Women: In your group answer these questions. Paul writes that a godly and peaceful life is good in the sight of God and goes on to say that God is willing for all to be saved and come to the truth. Does a quiet and peaceful life almost seem counterproductive to reaching the lost? In today's world we see agendas being pushed through protests, riots, media and more. Why would God then desire for us to have a peaceful and quiet life if He also wants all men to know the truth? How could a peaceful life actually bring about God's plan to bring everyone to the truth?

D) Theme discussion

Below are the five themes we are discussing throughout the course of this class:

1. Love with a clean conscience
2. Develop ourselves
3. Discharge duties of service and leadership
4. Address false teaching
5. Face evil

Which theme would this chapter best support?

E) Summary questions

1. What instructions does Paul give to men and women in this chapter?
2. In one sentence explain how prayer is used to maintain peace in the church.
3. In one sentence explain why God desires peace in the church.