

# ECCLÉSIA

## REFLECTING ON OUR REDEMPTION: 1 Timothy 2:8-15

### SHARINGSTORIES

Paul transitions from his previous comments on prayer by reminding men of the importance of devoting their lives to following, serving, and praying to God. Paul is introducing the often challenging concepts of gender and identity and seeks to provide the proper foundation for this discussion by emphasizing the importance of prayer once more. By reminding men of the need to respond to life with a fearless trust in God and to refuse to respond to life with anger, Paul seems to be laying the ground rules for the discussion of women's roles in the church. We all must turn to God with the utmost trust in His goodness and wisdom while also refusing to give into anger when confronted with things we do not like, understand, or agree with. One of the big ideas Paul is working with in this passage is that of submission and obedience. He spends time discussing the challenges both men and women face in this context.

*Why do human beings have such a difficult time submitting to an authority other than themselves? How do you personally deal with authority? Have you ever had difficulties in this arena? Explain.*

### DIGGINGIN

Review the first seven verses of chapter 2. Now read verses 8-15 and look for connections.

*Why do you think Paul introduces this new section after talking about prayer?*

*What function does verse 8 serve in this passage?*

*What is the principle Paul is addressing in verse 9? How do we determine the principle from the specific?*

*What is the principle involved in Paul's instructions regarding women's behavior in the church?*

### GOINGDEEPER

This is a difficult passage for lots of folks. Too often we get caught up in the details and are not able to see the bigger picture. Since emotions run strong around this issue, we need to ensure we are generous, understanding, and open to all view points, feelings, and thoughts.

*What are your feelings about Paul's instructions re women in the church?*

*Does realizing that the primary issue is one of submission and obedience affect how you feel?*

### PRAYER

Spend this time discerning how best pray for one another. Praise God for one specific item and petition Him for one request on their behalf.

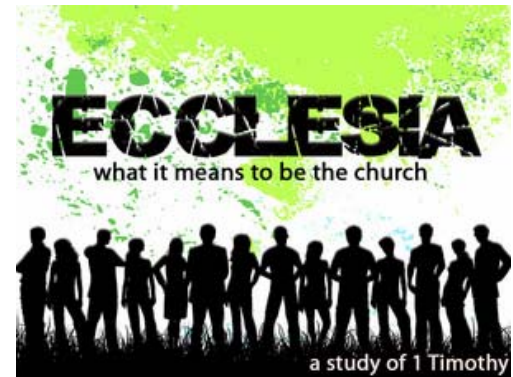
*Please pray for the hearts and spirits of women who have been hurt by the church. Ask the Father to give you an increased measure of compassion and understanding. Thank God for loving us all and knowing the ways he has for each of us. Pray that our first Sunday at the new building will go well.*

### REFLECTION

*What one idea has the Spirit impressed on your mind and heart from this passage?*

*What about your thinking of women in the church need to change? Explain.*

*What does godly masculinity and femininity look like?*



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