



Unit 4 Guide

SERIES: LESSONS FROM THE CHURCH **Lesson #4: THE HUMILITY OF THE CHURCH** **1 Timothy 2:8-15**

Announcements and opening prayer.



Connect: an opportunity for people to immediately interact and connect with each other; icebreaker/attention getters. **Icebreaker:** What are some places where people become highly emotional and don't care what anyone thinks?

What causes people to let down their guard and become extroverted in these moments?

Transition: Today we want to look at the actions of the church that some people will not understand but those actions make perfect sense to those who are filled with a love for Jesus' church and all that it means to be a part of this living body.

The Bottom Line: The church is to be filled with men and women who focus on passionately living a life of worship.

LESSON PLAN

 Denotes "Apply"

Last week we discovered that God's will for us is to live a life of prayer for everyone, involving even the world leaders in our prayer life and thoughts. In a previous study the comment was made that we, like Jesus, are to have empathy for those who are imprisoned by their false beliefs and ideas. Jesus came to earth to seek out those imprisoned by lies and to set them free. This should be an important part of our prayer life. This prayer life opens our eyes to the lost that God longs to bring into His grace and mercy. It produces peaceful and godly lives and even holiness. Now let's see how these lessons from the church continue to build.

Read 1 Timothy 2:8

1. He wants Christian men everywhere to do what?
2. This seems, to some extent, to restrict the people who **lead** in prayer. Why do you think God would have Paul teach this principle?

- ⌚ Do you ever pray with doubts? How do you feel after you've prayed? What respect would you have if the person leading in prayer obviously didn't expect God to really answer: They were just praying because they were appointed to pray?

Remember, in this letter Paul is telling Timothy to address issues in the church, especially in the worship and teaching. It appears that God cares about dynamic prayer in the church. Why?

Read 1 Timothy 2:9-10

- ⌚ Is there one definition for appropriate dress or does appropriate dress change with cultures?
- ⌚ What are some examples of inappropriate dress, dress that takes people's eyes or minds away from the message of God? (

Notice that verse 8 for the men and verse 9-10 are connected. Paul is saying, "The men have a responsibility that needs clarified in worship and the women also have a responsibility that needs clarified in worship.

3. How does Paul describe appropriate dress to the ladies of the church?

Modestly – aidws;;; AIDŌS; it does not mean modest as opposed to immodest. The Greek word simply meant to be in good taste, respectful. Can you stand before Jesus saying you have dressed tastefully for worship.

Decency – en kosmios;EN KOSMIOS; in order, sensible.

Propriety – swfrosujnh ;SŌPHROSUNĒ; appropriateness, reasonableness, mental soundness, propriety.

These traits do not limit the woman from dressing up for worship, but there spiritual dress is foremost and it will naturally guide their physical dress.

Have someone read 1 Peter 3:1-7

Peter is writing the same teaching as Paul. It is the beauty of the spirit that needs the most attention. Will I spend more energy on my spirit than I do on my hair and make-up? That is the question Peter and Paul want the women of the church to address. He doesn't have to do this as deeply with men because they are happy with a cap, jeans and an old t-shirt. They are wired differently and are not concerned with how people at church might look at their wardrobe and make-up. Although it might be good for many men to have a small dose of that instilled in them!

- ⌚ Why do you think God wants you to work on your inward appearance more than your outward appearance?

Let's look at the historical implications of Paul's idea on braided hair, gold, pearls, and expensive clothes. Reese points out in his commentary that the gold was expensive and could be jewelry or entwined in the hair braids. The pearls were obtained at that time from the Persian

Gulf or the Indian Ocean. They were fabulously priced and way beyond the purchasing power of the average church member. The costly jewelry mentioned was only worn by ladies of great luxury and wealth. This would have been an “in your face” attitude to the other women in the church if they wore such jewelry.

 What might be a parallel in today's church?

Read 1 Timothy 2:11-15

This has been an incredibly misunderstood passage over the years. One of the keys is to see that Paul has just shifted from women, plural, to woman, singular. That most likely means that Paul is now talking about wives rather than women in general. We are still talking about public worship in the church the Timothy is to get in order. The word “quietly” does NOT mean a complete absence of speaking. The Greek word related to an attitude, a spirit, a disposition and is best translated “quietness.” The same word is used in 1 Timothy 2:2 to describe the quite and tranquil life and in 2 Thessalonians 3:12 to urge all Christians to walk in quietness. The context does show a shift to the husband and wife. He goes on to use the example of Adam and Eve. Therefore, the quiet attitude and willingness to learn is from her husband.

 Men, what does that tell you about your responsibility before God concerning leading your family?

4. What does Paul tell Timothy he does not permit the wife (because it is the singular, woman rather than women) to do in the church?
5. To what historical act does Paul tie this teaching?
6. Do you think the outcome would have been different if she had discussed her choice with Adam?
7. Have someone read verse 15 and then ask, “How many people are totally confused by this verse? If this means you have to bear children to be saved, all single women are condemned. Obviously, that contradicts Scripture, so it can't be the right interpretation.

The bearing of the child is singular, not plural. Are all women condemned because of Eve? No! Through the seed of the woman promised in Genesis to Eve, the seed or child of the woman would bring salvation to all and crush the deceiving serpent's head forever! It is Jesus who Paul is pointing out as the salvation of all women. Adam deliberately accepted the idea of disobeying God when Eve presented it to him. He was not deceived like Eve, he plainly chose to sin without all the rhetoric that Eve wrestled with before disobeying God. The man must also be saved by the seed of the woman that would save her. Jesus alone is the answer.



Interactive Teaching Ideas: ideas for learner-focused teaching. Ask the class to discuss this question: "How has humility played an important role in your faith?" Share at your table.



CARING TIME: SHARE AND PRAY

Close with a Praise Time: "LOVING RELATIONSHIPS" Pray for God to empower our efforts to walk humbly before our God and our fellow man.

Peak

Memory Verse: "When pride comes, then comes disgrace, but with humility comes wisdom" (Proverbs 11:2).

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