



## Godly Relationships

### 1 Timothy 2: 1-15

- Story about Jac and Maggie not getting along.
- I told them the Bible says that if you don't love your brother, then you don't love God.  
Jac looked at me and said, "Well Dad, I don't have a brother. I have a sister."
- Maggie said, "Dad, I love him, but he just gets on my nerves."
- Relationships are not always easy, but no matter what we do we will always have to interact with other people.
- Last week, we preached about chapter 1 and the need for sound doctrine to guide everything we do. This is written from Paul to Timothy concerning leadership in the church. Leadership and church life is all about relationships.

- But if you are in secular employment, you know that relationships are very important as well. Those you work with, those you work for, and those who may work for you.
- In your family, relationships are important. You don't get to choose that group of people, but God expects us to seek good relations with them. Among your friends, relationships are important. You may get to choose this group, but even then, friendships take both sides actively cultivating the relationship.
- The nature of our relationships with other people will tell us something about our relationship with God.

**Main Point: Our relationships with others should seek to honor God and His word.**

- God has given to us direction and commands on how this should be done.

## **I. Reconciled with God**

- a. The Gospel is a message of hope and reconciliation, and that only happens through Jesus. There is one Mediator between God and men – Jesus Christ.
- b. This is the most important question that any of us could ask of ourselves – am I walking with the Lord and following His Word?
- c. Have I trusted in Him as my Lord and Savior? When that takes place, we are saved from condemnation, forgiven of our sins, and issued a new life to walk in the fullness of the Spirit of God.
- d. There are things about our lives that will change.
- e. Of course, our eternal destination changes. The trajectory of our lives changes from one who was bound for Hell to one who is making his way to Glory.

- f. Instead of receiving eternal punishment, we are now co-heirs with Christ. We are able to receive and take part in the wonderful blessings of Heaven.
- g. We are new creatures. We have been born again. And we have a new master. We don't serve sin our self – we serve Christ!
- h. This reconciled relationship with the Father changes everything else about our lives. Flowing out of a right relationship with God is the ability to have a right relationship with other people.
- i. How we talk. How we treat others. How we act when we don't get our way. How we love our families. How we raise our children. How we care for the least among us. How we treat people when they don't love us back. How we minister to the addict or alcoholic.

## II. Peaceable with others

- a. In VERSE 1 Paul says that concerning their prayers they need to pray for all men and especially those in authority.
- b. The verb exhort that Paul uses here means to encourage, but it should be seen in light of the stronger sense of the word he uses in chapter 1. He is urging them to commit to praying in this way.
- c. The result of these prayers would be the hope that they can live peaceable and quiet lives.
  - i. That seems a far cry from what we see in various places throughout the Book of Acts where the apostles and others were being thrown in jail.

ii. Acts 17 – Paul and Silas are in Thessalonica and the testimony that others have of them is, “These are the men who have turned the world upside down.”

iii. Acts 4 – Peter and John are confronted by the authorities for preaching the Gospel and they reply, “We can’t help but to speak of the things we have seen and heard.”

- d. Doesn’t seem like they were living at peace with those around them. But notice this – the apostles knew they had to take a stand for the Gospel. They were not going to cave, no matter the cost.
- e. If there were other things they could work around, however, they were willing to do that. In fact, they needed to do that to commit to the most important work of making disciples.
- f. Paul said in Romans 12 – “If at all possible, as much as it depends on you, live peaceably with all men.”
- g. How do you do that? You stand for the Gospel and those issues central to the Gospel, no matter the cost. But you seek to live in peace in most everything else.

### III. Knowing our role in God’s plan

- a. Paul addresses both men and women in the latter part of this passage. He emphasizes women here because they were dealing with a particular group of women causing chaos in the Ephesian church.
- b. We know that pagan cultic activity among women was more common in Asia Minor. Especially the cult of Artemis.

- c. Saved by childbirth? In Romans Paul explains salvation in the past, present, and future tense. We have been saved. We are being saved. We will be saved in the end. Justification. Glorification. Sanctification.
- d. Paul is saying that committing to God's natural order of things has a sanctifying effect. Not that women will get into Heaven if they have children.
- e. However, there are some general principles to take away that apply universally.
  - i. Worship should be done decently and in order.
  - ii. Men and women are different, and they have different roles (Gnostics opposed this).
  - iii. We should respect authority and the order that God created.
  - iv. We should organize our churches and conduct our affairs in accordance to God's Word and not worldly standards.