

Connection to 1 Timothy 2

Paul gives practical instructions for the church in how they can represent God to the world around them in their daily lives. He focuses on practical instructions that can make a difference in their walk with God as well as enable them to be a witness to the world around them.

Introduction/Opening

What am I even suppose to be doing here? That's the question many of us might ask if we were to walk into a gym. Many of us have not worked out on weights since high school or exercised without the "encouragement" of a coach. Every machine looks intimidating, as do the people in the facility who appear to be professionals at it.

For the Christian—especially the new Christian—it can be confusing to figure out how we are to live out our commitment to Jesus. Sure, we know we should go to church, but what about the rest of the week? In his letter to Timothy, Paul gave instructions for Christians—new and mature—in how to live out their faith in their everyday lives.

Outline

1. Healthy Prayer Life (1 Tim. 2:1)
 - a) Prayer—the First Priority
Many important and necessary elements make up a healthy walk with God (including Bible reading, fellowship, church membership, etc.), but Paul urged prayer first. Prayer is crucial to building our relationship with God, and when we pray, we follow Christ's example who frequently was in prayer with the Father.
 - b) Healthy Prayer is Prayer for Everyone
Paul did not tell us to pray for ourselves (we'll do that anyway), but for "everyone." He goes on to note that also includes those in authority as well.
2. Godly Lifestyle (1 Tim. 2:2)
One of the motivations for our prayers is that we might have the opportunity to live godly lives. Paul mentions four elements of this lifestyle.

The elements of a godly lifestyle:

- a) Tranquil: also translated peaceful. Christians are to seek peace in their lives and community.

- b) Quiet: Christians do not draw attention to themselves, but to their Savior. This doesn't imply we are silent in the face of sin or injustice, but that we desire to live a life that is focused on Christ and not ourselves.
- c) Godliness: Aiming to have a devotion to Christ in all things
- d) Dignity: Refers to living a life of morality and purpose

Each of these four elements is what we are to pursue as we live for Christ. We seek a tranquil and quiet life that allows us to demonstrate godliness and dignity. We also desire this for all our brothers and sisters in Christ (v. 2a).

3. Evangelistic Outlook (1 Tim. 2:3-6)

A third element to living for Christ daily is that we share God's heart for others. We desire for others to come to a saving knowledge of Jesus Christ. Paul expressed two foundational understandings for having this mindset.

a) God's Heart for Salvation (vv. 3-4)

God Himself "wants everyone to be saved and come to the knowledge of the truth" (v.4). We are to share His heart for the lost. God gave His Word, and it is sufficient to bring people to faith (2 Tim. 3:15). It is our responsibility to take the gospel to all, that they may hear the gospel and have the opportunity to respond.

b) God's Plan for Salvation (vv. 5-6)

The sacrifice of the Son is proof of God's desire for people to be forgiven of their sins. At the same time, He is the only way one can be saved; there is no other way. The way is available to all who respond in faith to the gospel message.

4. Living Out Your Vocation to God's Glory (1 Tim. 2:7)

Each of us have a vocation—a calling from God based on giftings He has given us. We are to carry out our vocations to the glory of God and use our gifts and talents for His purposes.

Conclusion

Paul showed us the way forward to living for Christ in our daily lives. Far from being intimidating, God has given us a clear plan and path for incorporating our faith into our lives. It starts with prayer, then moves into a lifestyle of godliness and dignity, where we seek the salvation of our friends, neighbors, and family, and we do all that for God's glory. Our faith can impact each area of our lives, and that can lead us to impact the world for Him.

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