

## Small Group Discussion Guide

(1 Tim. 2:8 – 14)

Open your group with a time of sharing and prayer. Ask God to give you insight into a somewhat difficult topic of study in today's lesson.

- I. In 1 Timothy, Paul gives Timothy specific instructions on how people ought to conduct themselves in God's household, the church. (1 Tim. 3:15) In what ways is the church like a household or family? How does a household's structure (line of authority, order, discipline, love, teamwork, mutual respect) fit in the church? What happens to a church when these are absent?
- II. Read 1 Tim. 2:8. In verse one Paul already introduced the topic of prayer in the church. How are men to pray? What does he mean by lifting hands in prayer? Why the reference to anger and disputing? What effect do these have on our prayers? (Note Ps. 66:18 – 19, 1 Pet. 3:7) What things do men tend to dispute over in churches? How are disputes in the church to be settled? (Note 1 Cor. 6:1 - 6)
- III. Now read 1 Tim. 2:9 – 10. Paul is addressing an issue with the women of Ephesus. What is it? Why could this have been a problem in the church? What solution does he suggest? Is this an issue for us today? Explain.
- IV. The next paragraph is somewhat controversial and not easily understood. Read 1 Tim. 2:11 – 14 carefully. Start by considering the context of the church at Ephesus. Again Paul is addressing an issue there. What do you surmise the

problem was? The word "woman" is the same word for wife/wives in Greek. How does this focus the problem if we use this translation? Is there an authority structure in the church (like there is in a household/ home)? Explain.

Why does Paul point back to the creation order to help solve this issue? (Apparently the Corinthian church has a similar issue. Note 1 Cor. 11:2 – 16. Head coverings isn't exactly our problem today but tension between the sexes and leadership roles still is.)

Back to 1 Timothy, how is childbearing in verse 15 possibly a reference back to the curse of sin in Genesis 3:16? What tension exists between the wife's' desires and the husbands leadership as a result of the fall? What emphasis for women does Paul suggest back in 1 Timothy 2:15? Does their context then fit our context now, and is male/female – husband/wife roles still a problem for us today? Any suggestions?

Close your time by praying for the men and women of Bethel Gilead. Ask God to teach us how to live together according to his plan for the church so that we can better represent him to a needy world.

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