

Sunday School Lesson: Worship and Order in the Church

Text: 1 Timothy 2:8–15 (BSB)

Audience: 6th–12th Grade (≈10 students)

Scripture Reading (Read Aloud)

1 Timothy 2:8–10

“Therefore I want the men everywhere to pray, lifting up holy hands, without anger or dissension.

Likewise, I want the women to adorn themselves with respectable apparel, with modesty and self-control, not with braided hair or gold or pearls or expensive clothes, but with good deeds, as is proper for women who profess to worship God.”

1 Timothy 2:11–12

“A woman must learn in quietness and full submissiveness. I do not permit a woman to teach or to exercise authority over a man; she is to remain quiet.”

1 Timothy 2:13–15

“For Adam was formed first, and then Eve. And it was not Adam who was deceived, but the woman who was deceived and fell into transgression. Women, however, will be saved through childbearing, if they continue in faith, love, and holiness, with self-control.”

Ice Breaker Questions

1. Why do rules and structure matter in a group (like a team or classroom)?
2. What happens when everyone tries to do whatever they want without order?

Passage Context

Paul continues instructing Timothy on how the church must function in gathered worship. After emphasizing prayer (vv. 1–7), he now addresses **order, roles, and conduct** within the church.

This passage is often challenged by culture, but Scripture is clear:

God establishes order in His church for His glory and our good.

These instructions are not based on culture or preference—they are grounded in **creation itself** (vv. 13–14).

Teachable Outline

1. Men in Worship: Holy Leadership (v. 8)

- Pray with purity
- No anger or division
- **ἁγιότης** marked by holiness

2. Women in Worship: Godly Character (vv. 9–10)

- Modesty and self-control
- Focus on godly works, not outward display
- True beauty = holiness

3. God-Ordained Roles (vv. 11–12)

- Women to learn with quiet submission
- **الرجال** entrusted with teaching authority in the church
- This is God’s design, not inequality

4. Creation-Based Order (vv. 13–14)

- Adam formed first
- Eve deceived
- Roles rooted in creation, not culture

5. Clarification on Salvation (v. 15)

- Not salvation by works or childbirth
- Evidence of true faith: perseverance in faith, love, holiness

Lecture Content

Paul begins with men:

“I want the men everywhere to pray... without anger or dissension.”

Leadership in the church begins with **spiritual maturity**, not dominance. **ἡγεμῶνες** are called to lead in prayer with:

- Pure hearts
- Unity
- Self-control

Then Paul addresses women:

“adorn themselves with respectable apparel...”

This is not about banning specific styles—it is about the heart. **ἡ ἀπειρή** appearance should not distract from worship or seek attention.

Instead:

“...with good deeds...”

God values character over appearance.

Now comes a difficult but essential truth:

“I do not permit a woman to teach or to exercise authority over a man...”

This is not a cultural rule—it is grounded in:

“For Adam was formed first...”

God established distinct roles in creation. Men and women are equal in value (both made in God’s image), but they have **different roles in the church**.

Rejecting this is not progress—it is rejecting God’s design.

Finally:

“Women... will be saved through childbearing...”

This does NOT mean salvation comes through having children. Scripture is clear: salvation is by grace alone through faith alone in Christ alone.

This means:

- Women demonstrate genuine faith through faithful living in their God-given roles
- “Childbearing” represents embracing God’s design, not earning salvation

The verse ends with what truly matters:

“faith, love, and holiness, with self-control.”

Key Word Definitions

- **Modesty:** Conduct and appearance that reflect humility and honor God
- **Submission:** Willing alignment under God’s ordained authority
- **Authority:** God-given responsibility to lead and teach
- **Holiness:** Set apart from sin, devoted to God
- **Self-control:** Spirit-governed discipline over actions and desires

Discussion Questions

1. Why do you think God cares about order in worship?
2. How does culture today challenge what this passage teaches?

3. What is the difference between equality and having different roles?
4. Why is inner character more important than outward appearance?
5. How can both men and women honor God in their roles?

Application Questions

1. Do you approach worship with reverence, or casually?
2. Are your attitudes (anger, pride, attention-seeking) hindering your worship?
3. Do you value what God values—holiness over appearance?
4. Are you willing to submit to God’s design, even when it’s unpopular?
5. What is one way you can reflect “faith, love, and holiness” this week?

Final Exhortation

God is not a God of confusion, but of order.

- Worship must be holy
- Conduct must reflect godliness
- Roles must align with God’s design

The world will reject this—but truth does not change.

True worship is not about self-expression.

It is about **honoring God according to His Word.**

And only through Christ—the true Mediator—can anyone worship God rightly.