

## CHURCH: IT'S HIS HOUSE, PT VI – ROLES, RULES, & RAILS

Apr 21st, 2024 | Speaker: Pastor Finney Samuel

Scripture References: 1Tim2:8-15; 3:15-16, Heb 4:16, 1Pet 1:18-19, Mat 5:23-24

### REVIEW

#### KEY VERSE

"I desire then that in every place the men should pray, lifting holy hands without anger or quarreling;

1 Timothy 2:8

In continuation of our multi-part series of the "Church, It's His House", today we focus on how we conduct ourselves in the church, with particular emphasis on the roles of men and women. It is imperative we understand our God-given roles so that we can reach our fullest influence and potential within our families, the marketplace and the Church Body. We understand, God is making men and women in His image and of equal worth and assigning them to different, distinctive roles that cannot be interchanged.

Timothy was charged by Paul to raise up leaders, to address issues with false teachings that were creeping into the Church, and to encourage leaders to focus on the things that are essential to the

Church Body. In 1 Timothy 2, Paul begins by urging "that supplications, prayers, intercessions, and thanksgivings be made for all people," It is our duty to pray and intercede for all people because it is good and pleasing to Our Precious Lord Jesus who desires that all be saved. Through prayer, God has mercifully allowed us to boldly and confidently come into His presence through the door of grace.

Our time of prayer and having access to His presence is a gift, we count precious and not be careless about. Our place of prayer is insignificant but our inner posture matters more to God. It is not lifted hands, but the lifting of holy hands that God desires. Our preparation, as we come into His presence matters as God desires we be humble and have no unresolved issues with our brother as it impacts our ability to pray and the effectiveness of our prayers.

In 1 Timothy 2:8-15, Paul declares we are called to honor God's infinite wisdom and perfect design (context of the Church Assembly) the various "roles, rules and rails" for God's people to fully experience God's blessings and enjoy an intimate connection with him.

Worldly standards and culturally accepted ideologies will not align to God's word inasmuch as God is distinctly perfect in all his ways in wisdom, righteousness, and judgment. In the beginning God created us in His image - male and female (equal with worth and value). Neither men nor women are superior to one another in terms of worth in God's eyes. While equal in worth, God's Word defines there are differences in roles as men and women. We are to honor the roles, understand and fulfill them as intended by God.

The importance of roles can be evident looking at Trinity. The Father, Son, and Holy Spirit are all co-equal in all aspects including holiness, power, eternality, wisdom, righteousness, etc. The Father planned our salvation, Jesus executed the plan on the cross, and the Holy Spirit reveals to us so we can experience salvation. The cooperation and submission of each member of the Godhead is seen by all.

In a similar manner, God has created man and woman to be co-equal in worth but yet serve different roles within the home and the Church. Within the context of the Church, Paul writes in 1 Timothy 2:8-15 about the role men need to serve in prayer and raising holy hands and the conduct of women in the Church. While both men and women are called to submit to the authority of God, Paul indicates in 1 Timothy 2:8 that He desires that men should pray with the following requirements:

1. **In every place** – we are called to pray everywhere; not limited to where and when we pray. It's not location that determines the quality of our prayer rather it is to be in spirit and in truth.
2. **Lifting holy hands** – It is not the physical posture rather the posture of our hearts and mind that makes a difference in our connection with God. (Holy hands = holy life). As we come to God's

presence we are called to have a right heart attitude and demeanor and not with a polluted mind of uncontested sin? For we live in a fallen world and therefore the need to be vigilant for a purity of heart.

3. Without anger or quarreling – Proper attitude in prayer is very important. Preparation is required in advance of prayer. Matthew 5: 23-24, says that we are to reconcile any discord in our relationship with another brother or sister before we make a gift at the altar. Often pride has a stronghold on our ability to forgive others. Anger and unresolved issues in our hearts render us ineffective and unfit for service, prayer, worship, etc.

For women, motherhood is one the greatest gifts on the earth from God. It is a divinely-designed vocation exclusive to women in childbearing. There are many roles that God has called women to beyond motherhood, within the home, the church and other arenas. However, gender distinction is very clear in the Bible and an important part of God's design.

Men, as head of our households, need to serve as the spiritual head of our homes. Our individual homes are connected to the Household of God. The culture we cultivate at home is what we end up bringing into the Household of God. We need to ensure that we are not neglecting our God-given role in either household.

Through prayer we are connected to God and have a deep relationship with Christ. Through prayer we pass the baton of faith to the next generation. Our lives must embrace prayer as a priority and it is through this relationship with God we are positioned to bless others. Our prayer life should not be limited to merely blessing and enriching ourselves and those within our family, but also to have an impact on others around us. As men and women of God, we are to understand and effectively fulfill our roles in a way that is ordained by God and pleases him.

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## REFLECT

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1. What are some examples of the way men and women are designed to have the different types of relationships that we will have in our lives (e.g., between ourselves and God as well as with each other)? How has God demonstrated through His actions, whether through God the Father, Our Lord Jesus, or Holy Spirit, what this looks like (e.g. Jesus and the Church)?

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2. What does the phrase “Equality in worth but differences in roles” mean to you? What passages in the Bible allow us to confirm our understanding of this idea?

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3. Take time to reflect on our current prayer life. How satisfied are we in the amount of time we spend in prayer? How much of our prayer time is part of our daily priority or are we squeezing it in when we find time? How can we take steps in the coming weeks to strengthen our prayer life?

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4. Have you ever been angry at a time when you were going to pray? Think about that experience and describe how you felt during that moment going into prayer and how you felt after you finished your prayer. What would you do differently now?

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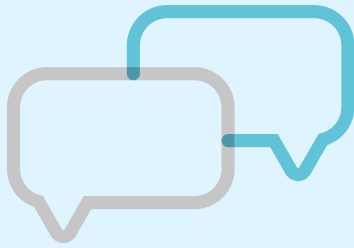
5. Why does the enemy/ world so intensely focus on undermining God’s intended design for the role of men and women? Do you think that the world has been relatively successful in misleading people in this arena? Also, do you think that some churches are also falling into the trap of distorting God’s design for men and women? Give examples.

## NOTES

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Instructions: When we read the Scriptures, when we sit under our leaders for the proclamation and teaching of the Scriptures we ought to respond and ask the Holy Spirit to teach us to respond.

*In response to what we have discussed and learned this week:*

- a) Take ten minutes to respond to God directly.
- b) Choose one or two of the categories below and journal a personal prayer in your Bible, notebook or a digital device.

## HOW CAN YOU RESPOND TO THIS TEXT IN PRAYER?



We confess and ask for forgiveness Lord for any time we have not taken seriously the responsibility of our prayer life or came into your presence in a manner that brought displeasure to you. We know Lord you are faithful to forgive those who come to you with a repentant heart.



Give us Lord the strength to stand strong in your word and your truth in the divine design for the role of men and women in our families and in the church. Help us Lord to not be intimidated or deterred in what you have called us to do in the face of criticism and pressure from the world. Help us Lord to identify and remove anything in our lives that brings displeasure to you that we may always come boldly into your throne room.



We give thanks to God that through prayer, He has mercifully allowed us to come into His presence and that we may receive mercy and find grace in our time of need.



God you are not only all powerful and holy but rich in mercy. Your wisdom is beyond our comprehension. You are our great high priest who understands us and has lovingly demonstrated and made clear for us His intended design for our divinely appointed roles.