

**House Rules**  
***Functioning as the Church***  
Week 05: Behavior in the Church (Part 1): Prayer

**Scripture**

1 Timothy 2:1-7

**Motivation (Why They Need to Know It)**

In Paul's introductory words to Timothy, we find a young man who most likely had a desire to be with Paul (maybe a close friendship or it was too hard at Ephesus).

**1 Timothy 1:3 (ESV)** As I urged you when I was going to Macedonia, remain at Ephesus...

But Paul urged Timothy to stay in Ephesus, even though Timothy may have wanted to leave.

***Why did Paul want Timothy to stay?***

- To confront false teachers who had infiltrated the church
- To establish proper conduct in the churches at Ephesus (circular letter)
  - Prayer among the church
  - Conduct of men and women
  - Choosing leaders for the church
  - Dealing with backsliders
  - Caring for different groups in the church

**Information (What They Need to Know)**

It's interesting to see where Paul begins with helping guide proper conduct in the church...PRAYER.

**What is prayer?**

***Full Definition***

"Prayer is the act of asking God to do what he has already promised to do, which is modeled throughout the Bible by the patriarchs, the psalmists, the prophets, Jesus, and the apostles." **Gary Millar** in his essay, *The Doctrine of Prayer*

***Simple Definition***

Asking God to act on behalf of ourselves and others

## **What Prayers does God Hear (and answer according to His will)?**

(Adapted from Gary Millar)

- **Prayers for God's plan to be accomplished** (glorify himself)  
**Matthew 6:9 (NLT)** Pray like this: Our Father in heaven, may your name be kept holy. **10** May your Kingdom come soon. May your will be done on earth, as it is in heaven.
- **Prayers for forgiveness**  
**1 John 1:9 (ESV)** If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.
- **Prayers for a greater relationship with God**  
**John 17:3 (ESV)** And this is eternal life, that they know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom you have sent.
- **Prayers for wisdom** (to know how to live for God)  
**James 1:5 (ESV)** If any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask God, who gives generously to all without reproach, and it will be given him.
- **Prayers for strength to obey/ live for God**  
**Ephesians 3:14 (ESV)** For this reason I bow my knees before the Father... **16** that according to the riches of his glory he may grant you to be strengthened with power through his Spirit in your inner being
- **Prayers for the spread of the gospel**  
**Luke 10:2 (NLT)** "The harvest is great, but the workers are few. So pray to the Lord who is in charge of the harvest; ask him to send more workers into his fields."

## **Here is the practical outworking of prayer in the church...**

- **Pray for Everyone**  
**1 Timothy 2:1 (ESV)** First of all, then, I urge that supplications, prayers, intercessions, and thanksgivings be made for all people
  - **Supplications** (heart-felt requests arising out of deep personal need)
  - **Prayers** (requests for particular benefits)
  - **Intercessions** (approaching God to intervene on behalf of someone else or ourselves)
  - **Thanksgivings** (giving of thanks; gratitude)
- **Pray for All in Authority**  
**1 Timothy 2: 2 (ESV)** ...for kings and all who are in high positions, that we may lead a peaceful and quiet life, godly and dignified in every way.
  - Pray that those in authority respond to the Gospel
  - Commit to the truth, but seek peaceful relationships with those in authority

## ■ Pray for the Lost

**1 Timothy 2:3 (ESV)** This is good, it is pleasing in the sight of God our Savior, **4** who desires all people to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth.

- Salvation of the lost is God's desire for all, but not all will receive it
- We should pray for people to be saved through the work of Jesus Christ

**1 Timothy 2:5 (ESV)** For there is one God, and there is one mediator between God and men, the man that is Christ Jesus, **6** who gave himself as a ransom [payment] for all, which is the testimony given at the proper time.

## ■ Pray for the Sick

**James 5:13 (ESV)** Is anyone among you suffering? Let him pray. Is anyone cheerful? Let him sing praise. **14** Is anyone among you sick? Let him call for the elders of the church, and let them pray over him...

- The suffering *pray* (go to God for strengthening)
- The cheerful *praise* (sing about the goodness of God)
- The sick *partner* with church leaders (leaders pray on behalf of the sick)

“...could it be that sickness is such a frequent misery among the sheep of God that the shepherds will take it as their normal responsibility to be zealous for gifts of faith and healing after the pattern of the chief Shepherd Jesus Christ?”  
– John Piper

We want to take the time to pray for an immediate situation in our church family.

**Jeff is going to join me on stage to tell us a little more about this situation and how we can pray.**

## Application (What They Need to Do)

Today, we'll be closing out by practicing prayer in a corporate manner.

I know we've talked about a lot of details concerning prayer so let me summarize what we'll be doing.

## ***What you can pray about...***

*We're asking God to act on behalf of ourselves or others*

- Pray for yourself (physical, spiritual, mental, emotional, relational needs)
- Pray for those in authority (pray for the salvation of our government officials)
- Pray for the lost (pray for those who need to know Jesus as Savior)
- Pray for the sick (pray for self, others)

## ***How you can pray...***

*We want this to be responsive.*

- If you'd like someone to pray on your behalf, make your way to the front and we'll have people available
- If you'd just like to pray on your own, make your way to the front and you can kneel across the front (we have cards in the seat backs where you can write on them and place the cards in slots at both sides of the stage)
- If you'd like to pray for someone around you, feel free to leave your seat and pray over them
- If you prefer to pray privately, you can sit in your seat right where you are and pray

The band will be playing lightly in the background.