DISCIPLESHIP RESOURCES

DISCUSSION GUIDES

EVERY MONDAY

Discussion Guide

Sunday Sermon 11.1.26

(Part 2) God's Standard for Men and Women in His Church

This guide is designed to help your family or group take what was taught on Sunday and move from simply hearing the information to applying it in ways that build up and encourage one another. Feel free to adjust the depth and number of questions based on your time and the size of your group.

Access the Sermon on the Website & App:

Click Here



Before You Meet

Encourage group members to read 1 Timothy 2:8-15 on their own before gathering. Ask them to come prepared to share one question or observation the passage raises for them personally.

Key Takeaways

1. God determines our roles because He is our Creator. Just as an employee submits to the standards of an employer, believers submit to God's design not out of reluctant obligation but out of trust in the One who made them.

2. Men are called to lead in prayer and holiness. Godly masculinity is not defined by dominance or independence but by humility before God and blameless living before others.

3. Women are called to prioritize godliness over outward appearance. True modesty begins internally. The question is not simply what is worn but whether the focus is drawn toward self or toward God.

4. Women are expected to learn God's Word and to operate within His authority structure in the church. This is not a diminishment of women's value or contribution. Women are called to the Great Commission just as fully as men are.

5. God's design for gender roles is rooted in creation, not culture. These distinctions existed before sin entered the world. Sin has distorted both masculinity and femininity into extremes, but God's original design reflects His own character.

6. God's grace toward women is seen in the role of bearing and raising children. Even in the wake of Eve's transgression, God reserved a unique and significant contribution to humanity for women. How children are raised in faith, love, holiness, and self-control matters deeply.

Discussion Questions

Opening

- What was one thing from this sermon that challenged you, surprised you, or that you are still thinking about?

Section 1 -- Men Leading in Prayer and Holiness (1 Timothy 2:8)

- The sermon describes godly masculinity as beginning with humility before God rather than with strength or independence. How does that compare to the picture of masculinity you see in the surrounding culture?

- The pastor stated: "You want the culture to change, the community to change, our country to change, the world to change. You can literally trace it all back to godly men in the home." How does this statement highlight the role of men in our culture and in the church?
- What are some practical ways men in your group can grow in leading through prayer and holy living?

Section 2 -- Women and Godliness Over Outward Appearance (1 Timothy 2:9-10)

- The sermon framed modesty as being primarily about motive rather than a specific dress code. How does thinking about motive rather than rules change the way you approach this topic?
- The pastor asked a simple diagnostic question: are you trying to draw focus to yourself or to God? How might that question apply beyond clothing to other areas of life?

Section 3 -- Women Learning and Submitting to God's Authority Structure (1 Timothy 2:11-12)

- The sermon pointed out that Paul was offending two extremes simultaneously -- those who would not allow women to learn at all, and those who rejected any authority structure based on gender. Where do you see those two extremes showing up today?
- The pastor emphasized that women are called to the Great Commission just as fully as men are and that disciple-making is the most significant role anyone can have. How does that reframe the conversation about what women are and are not permitted to do in the church?
- What questions do you still have about this passage?

Section 4 -- Gender Order Rooted in Creation (1 Timothy 2:13-14)

- The sermon explained that men and women were created differently before sin ever entered the world, and that God divided His own characteristics between masculinity and femininity. How does that perspective change the way you think about gender differences?
- Sin pushed both men and women toward extremes -- domineering or passive for men, and either seeking to overtake or being completely silenced for women. Which of those distortions do you think is most common in your own context? Which is hardest to recognize in yourself?
- The pastor noted that Satan attacked gender roles from the very beginning. Why do you think this has been such a consistent target?

Section 5 -- Verse 15 and the Grace of God Toward Women

- The word translated "saved" in verse 15 can mean to heal, set free, or deliver from. How does understanding it that way change how you read this verse?

- The sermon described childbearing and child-rearing as a form of God's grace toward women rather than a burden or limitation. How does that truth impact you?
- The pastor said: "It's not just about raising your kids, but it matters how you do it." What does it look like practically to pass on faith, love, holiness, and self-control to the next generation?

Closing

- The sermon closed with this challenge: "Either you trust him or you don't." When it comes to the parts of this passage that are hardest to accept, what does trust in God actually look like for you personally?
- What is one specific way you want to respond to what God showed you through this passage?

Practical Applications

For Men

- Identify one area of your life where pride or self-sufficiency has replaced dependence on God in prayer. Bring it to Him this week.
- Ask the men in your group to hold you accountable to leading your household in a specific, tangible act of spiritual leadership before the next meeting.

For Women

- Spend time this week reflecting on where you find your sense of worth. Is it rooted in your appearance, your accomplishments, your role, or your relationship with God?
- If you are a mother or have influence over children, write down one value from the list in verse 15 -- faith, love, holiness, or self-control -- and identify one intentional way you will model or teach it this month.

For the Whole Group

- Pray together specifically for godly men and women to be raised up in your church and community.
- Identify someone in your life who does not yet know Christ. Commit to praying for them by name this week and look for one opportunity to share the gospel with them.
- As a group, discuss what it looks like to hold these convictions with both clarity and grace in conversations with people who strongly disagree.

Closing Prayer Focus

- Pray for humility to receive God's Word even when it is difficult.
- Pray for men to rise up in prayer, holiness, and sacrificial leadership.
- Pray for women to find their deepest worth in godliness and their God-given roles.
- Pray for those in your group or community who are uncertain about their relationship with God.
- Pray for your church as it moves forward into the study of leadership and church structure in 1 Timothy 3.