

**Principles and Patterns for Leadership in the Churches**  
Paul's case for male leadership in the church

**Introduction: Priming the pump for tonight's discussion.**

- Let's begin with our own observations. Was there a moment where God spoke to you, showed you something new, or reminded you of a familiar truth through the message this week?

**Exploration: Questions to guide our group discussion.**

- Paul admonished the men at Ephesus to lift up holy hands in prayer to the Lord. We know that lifting hands is not a requirement for worship, but it is encouraged in the scriptures. Why are physical expressions important in worship? Has anyone had the experience of allowing themselves to become comfortable with more expressive worship, and what was the result in your own experience? What does the Bible say about this? Hint: Ps 63:4, Ps 119:48, Ps 134:2, Lam 2:29, Lam 3:41, Ps 34
- Women were encouraged to be modest in their dress and appearance in the church, not seeking to draw attention to themselves, but modestly keeping the focus and attention on Jesus. Paul used two keywords...propriety and moderation. Women should dress with honor and use good judgment about the clothing and adornments that they wear to church. Why is this important and what might the Lord be speaking to us today about this issue?
- Paul set the standard of male authority in the church regarding the roles of Bishop/Pastor and Elder. These positions represent the teaching and preservation of Biblical doctrine over the church, and the ruling authority over the affairs of the church. What insights did you gain about this from our study? What attitudes are necessary to receive a teaching such as this?
- Paul pointed out that there is an order of authority in creation. Before Eve was created, God was holding Adam responsible for garden life. This order is reflected in God's plan for leadership in the human family and in the church. Nonetheless, a woman's influence is immeasurable in her own family and through her influence in the family of faith. Has anyone here ever considered that God held Adam responsible for the fall even though Eve ate from the tree first? Let's share our thoughts on this idea/

**Additional Scriptures for Deeper Study:**

- Galatians 3:28

- 1 Peter 5:1-4
- Philippians 4:2-3

**Application: How can I apply this to my life this week?**

- Is there an attitude, a belief, an idea, a custom, or a tradition that was challenged in this week's message? How would God have us to respond when our customs come face to face with His Word?
- Are there any areas where you haven't been living in the fullness of God's calling upon your life? What would God say to you and how would He have you to step into your calling?