

Please read 1 Timothy 2 and then answer the following questions...

1. Life would have been easier if Paul had not written this chapter. Agree Disagree
2. What do you think is Paul's main concern in this chapter? Given the culture of Ephesus, why do you think this was such a crucial concern? Given the culture of Merced, how crucial is this concern for us today?
3. What is the purpose of all this prayer? (hint = see verses 3,4)
4. Why do you think Paul begins with men?
5. 2:8 is the summary statement for 2:1-8. What do you think is the main point Paul is making to men? What does this say about the heart of a man? What does this say about the heart of a man as a leader in the church, as a husband, in the community?
6. These days, how does Paul's instruction to men challenge / encourage you?

The Priority of the Heart (verses 9-12)

1. In verse 9, when Paul writes "...likewise also", what is Paul referring to? (i.e. "likewise" to what?)
2. Consider the following situation:

She was an outstanding Bible teacher and part of a group of dedicated Christians committed to starting a new church. The new body of believers was desperately short of personnel to teach Sunday School classes, particularly, the adult Sunday School class. The group, recognizing this woman's knowledge of the Bible and her ability to teach in an exciting and effective manner, asked her to take the responsibility of teaching the adult class. Not wishing to place herself in a questionable position relative to the instruction of Scripture on this matter, she reluctantly agreed, with the understanding that as soon as a man who was qualified appeared on the scene, she would turn over her responsibilities to him. Sunday by Sunday as she taught, people were saved and matured in the knowledge of God's Word. The class experienced tremendous growth and was a great asset to the fledgling church. Then one Sunday a qualified man joined the congregation, and true to her Biblical convictions, this faithful woman insisted that the qualified man take over the responsibilities of teaching the adult class. The foundation had been laid well. She had done an excellent piece of work, but she knew that God wanted a qualified man to fill her role as teacher from then on. Do you agree or disagree with what was done? Why or why not?
3. What is Paul's main concern for the women of the Ephesian church? Given the culture of Ephesus, why do you think this was such a crucial concern? Given the culture of Merced, how crucial is this concern for us today?

The Struggle of the Heart (verses 13-15)

1. What do you think is the point of Paul's illustration in 2:13-15?
2. In verse 15, in what possible sense are women "*saved through childbearing*"? How does this "saving" relate to continuing "*in faith and love and holiness, with self control*"?
3. What do you think is the main point Paul is making to women with this illustration?
4. These days, how does Paul's instruction to women challenge / encourage you?

Processing all that...

Thinking through Paul's teaching in this chapter, these days how are we doing as a congregation? On a scale of 1 to 10 (1 being on death's doorstep and 10 being really healthy) how would you rate Creekside? What would it take to move us one point to the right (towards a 10)?