

# 1 Timothy Bible Studies



*how people ought to conduct themselves in God's household,  
which is the church of the living God,  
the pillar and foundation of the truth.*

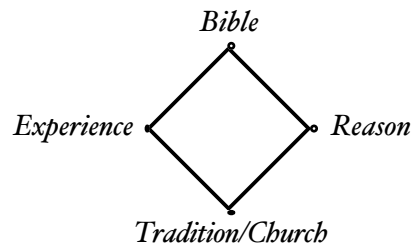
*1 Timothy 3:15*

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## God Rules Our Church

To obey God is to obey his Word. To reject God is to reject his Word. To trust God is to trust his Word. So if we want *God* as the one in charge of our church then we need to have *his Word* in charge of our church. Many churches in Sydney and around the world want God's Word as the supreme authority in matters of salvation and Christian living. But many others let alternative authorities have the final say on how to be saved and how to live as a Christian.



All churches use all four corners. The issue is which corner is allowed to *determine* the other three? Remember, it's not what a church *says* its approach is but what the reality is in *practice*. The alternatives that follow will help clarify what we should aim for in a church:

**Bible:** Bible believing churches from a variety of denominations.

Here, the Bible has the final say in what to believe and how to live as a Christian. Thus the Bible has prime place as they meet together as a church. Whether Sunday school, teens or adult talks they are all letting God have his say by declaring his Word, the Bible. They work sequentially through books within the Bible hearing each topic that God has seen fit to include for our instruction. Rather than getting caught up on the things that fascinate some people, they step into line with God's agenda, hearing the things he thinks are important.

**Reason:** Many 'liberal' churches

Here, what God says in the Bible is sifted according to what limited human minds feel able to accept. So in a sense they take the scissors to the Bible and disregard the bits they don't like. These include things like miracles, God becoming human in Jesus and the Trinity. However, you would expect God, if he is God, to be far greater and more powerful than our minds can grasp. God is not against us using the full potential of our brains. But our brains are not for finding or creating loopholes like a tax-cheat. Our brains are for glorifying him by understanding the world and thinking of how best to trust and obey him.

For us, the temptations are more subtle and are often felt with regard to: people in other religions being without hope, the reality of hell, homosexual practice being wrong and the differences between men and women in the family & church. We shouldn't wangle out of what the Bible says on these things. In many ways, these things are easier to believe than every dead person rising to life at Christ's return! We are to trust God's Word!

**Experience:** Many 'Pentecostal' churches

Here, what God says in the Bible is read in light of what *seems* more tangible: experiences often involving emotion. This can come in old churches with spooky architecture. Also, churches can whip people's emotion to great heights with impressive music. Often people confuse the emotion with relationship and speak of feeling close to God at those times. Yet Jesus has made us close to God already. eg. In some churches people can be invited on stage and, with the touch of a pastor, fall unconscious on the ground. Rather than the Bible informing us of how to relate to God, this experience (that any good hypnotist can do) is described as being 'slain in the Spirit'. At a Bible church people enjoy their emotions but they are a carriage on the train not the engine.

**Tradition/Church:** Many Catholic and Orthodox churches.

Here, a particular group's long-standing traditions take pride of place over what God says in the Bible. If you ask the question why do you do *this* or believe *that?*, then the answer will be "we have always believed that". Whether it's in the Bible or whether it conflicts with the Bible is a matter of lesser significance since their tradition forms their identity.

## 1 Timothy 1 • The Glorious Gospel

1. God chose to give us a fair whack of his Word, the Bible, as *real letters* between real people. What are the great benefits of this for us?

2. What do we learn of Paul, Timothy and God from verses 1-2?

3. We are not Timothy. Why should we read and respond to what Paul has written?

1 Timothy 1:1, 11, 12

1 Timothy 3:14-15 & 4:6

2 Peter 3:15-16 (see also 2 Tim 3:16)

*NOTE: Peter sees Paul's writing as 'Scripture' (2 Peter 3:16). Paul saw Luke's writings as Scripture (1 Tim 5:18) all he also saw ALL Scripture as inspired by God (2 Tim 3:16).*

4. What do we learn about the problem that Timothy was to combat?

5. 'Doctrine' (teachings) is mentioned twice in the verses 3-11. What goes with good doctrine and what doesn't?

*Associated with  
Bad Doctrine:*

*Associated with  
Good Doctrine:*

6. What is 'the glorious gospel' (v11) about? Why was Paul such an appropriate person for God to entrust with preaching this gospel?

7. Why did Jesus come?

8. Are you, as an individual, aligning your life with Jesus' program? Pray.

9. How can we as a small church see Jesus save sinners and keep ourselves from not drifting off into unsound doctrine? What part will the Scriptures play in our plans (2 Timothy 3:15 and 16-17)?

10. Ponder this statement in light of 1 Timothy 1 ...

*"The world would be boring if we were all identical.  
When it comes to what churches teach, it's great to have differences.  
More diversity adds more colour to the world and no-one can claim they are always right.  
I never disagree with the teaching of another church nor seek to correct them."*

When it is appropriate to gently refute false doctrine?

*Also: Consider Page 2 'God Rules Our Church'.*

11. In 12 months time, how will you assess whether it was a good year for our Small Church?

## 1 Timothy 2 • Conduct in God's Household

You might like to do this study over two Small Church meetings.

Read 1 Timothy 3:14-15 and pray from this verse. Ask God to help us to know how we ought to conduct ourselves in God's household, which is the church of the living God, the pillar and foundation of the truth.

### Read 1 Timothy 2:1-7 (English Standard Version)

<sup>1</sup> First of all, then, I urge that supplications, prayers, intercessions, and thanksgivings be made for all people, <sup>2</sup> for kings and all who are in high positions, that we may lead a peaceful and quiet life, godly and dignified in every way. <sup>3</sup> This is good, and it is pleasing in the sight of God our Saviour, <sup>4</sup> who desires all people to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth. <sup>5</sup> For there is one God, and there is one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus, <sup>6</sup> who gave himself as a ransom for all, which is the testimony given at the proper time. <sup>7</sup> For this I was appointed a preacher and an apostle (I am telling the truth, I am not lying), a teacher of the Gentiles in faith and truth.

1. What sorts of things should we pray for governments that will result in people living peaceful, quiet and godly lives?

2. War and unrest has lead to opportunities for the gospel. But how will a peaceful society help people to be saved and come to a knowledge of the truth?

3. Stop now and pray that *your desire* will be *God's desire* from this passage. Pray we will want all people to know God's one solution for them all!

### Read 1 Timothy 2:8-10,

<sup>8</sup> I desire then that in every place the men should pray, lifting holy hands without anger or quarrelling; <sup>9</sup> likewise also that women should adorn themselves in respectable apparel, with modesty and self-control, not with braided hair and gold or pearls or costly attire, <sup>10</sup> but with what is proper for women who profess godliness—with good works.

1. What are men to do? Do you find it easier to get angry & 'do', than pray?

2. What are women to do? Do you need to concern yourself more with your inner beauty than your outer beauty?

*We now **know** more of how we ought to conduct ourselves in God's household, which is the church of the living God, the pillar and foundation of the truth. Pray we'll now **do** it.*

### Read 1 Timothy 2:11-15

11 A woman should learn quietly with all submissiveness. 12 I do not permit a woman to teach or to exercise authority over a man; rather, she is to remain quiet. 13 For Adam was formed first, then Eve; 14 and Adam was not deceived, but the woman was deceived and became a transgressor. 15 Yet she will be saved through childbearing—if they continue in faith and love and holiness, with self-control.

3. What exactly do verses 11-12 say a woman is to do and not do?

*Note: 'quiet's meaning includes 'peaceful, mild manner'. See 2v2 and 2 Thess 3:12 'settle down'.*

4. In this chapter, many concepts have distinct but related meanings:

v1	supplications	prayer, (& intercessions)
v2	kings	all who are in high positions
v2	peaceful	quiet
v2	godly	dignified (holiness)
v3	good	pleasing
v4	saved	come to a knowledge of the truth
v7	preacher	apostle
v8	anger	quarrelling

How are all the following four terms related?

learn quietly	all submissiveness
teach	have authority over

5. The New Testament expects appropriate males (ie. godly & able to teach) to accept the extra responsibility (ie. Christlike servant authority) in both the areas mentioned in 1 Tim 2:12, namely teaching & authority in God's Household, the church. This corresponds to husbands lovingly accepting extra responsibility in the teaching and oversight of the home:

Read 1 Timothy 3:1-5, 5:17 Titus 1:6,9 and Ephesians 5:22-28, 6:4

6. According to God's Word (through Paul and others), in which *contexts* are women to take up teaching roles?

Read Titus 2:3-5 ; Proverbs 1:8 and 31:26 (also 2 Timothy 1:5 & 3:14-15)

7. When does informal or non-authoritative teaching take place in the NT?

Colossians 3:16, Ephesians 5:19 *Ever realised you taught others while singing?*

Acts 18:24-26 *This is recounting what happened, it's not stating a command.*

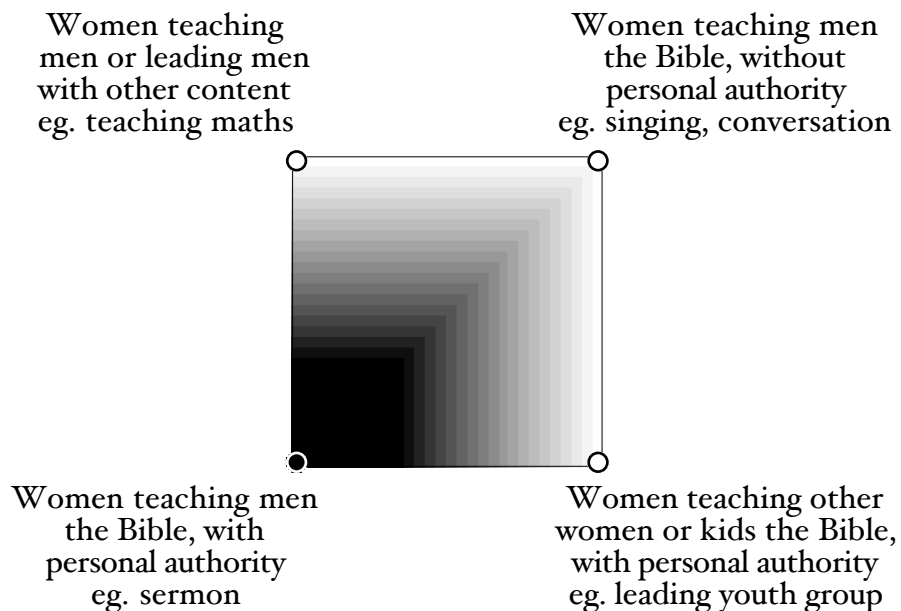
*What about reading the Bible in church?  
What about sharing your thoughts on a passage in a Bible study group?  
What about teaching mathematics to an adult group?*

8. Bible teaching in church by a sermon is an authoritative activity. We don't like authority in our culture in our time. Yet the Bible says we are all to submit to our leaders. Why?

*Hebrews 13:7* Remember your leaders, who spoke the word of God to you. Consider the outcome of their way of life and imitate their faith.

*Hebrews 13:17* Obey your leaders and submit to their authority. They keep watch over you as men who must give an account. Obey them so that their work will be a joy, not a burden, for that would be of no advantage to you.

9. So overall there are clear distinctions between the different types of teaching. All Christians are teachers in one sense but *clearly* not all in another sense (1 Cor 12:29, James 3:1). There are greyer areas between: *eg. when does a young male become an adult?*



Can you think of other scenarios which are 'grey areas' between the clear parameters in the Bible we've seen?

*Is facilitating a Bible study discussion less authoritative than a sermon? How much?*

We now **know** more of how we ought to conduct ourselves in God's household, which is the church of the living God, the pillar and foundation of the truth. Pray we'll now **do** it.

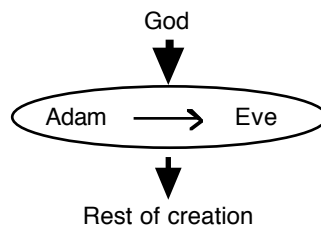
10. What are the reasons in v13 for the commands in v11-12? (Note: v13 starts with 'for').

11. Some might argue these instructions for women were just part of first century culture and no longer apply to us. However, in verse 13 Paul appeals to something beyond culture - God's intention in making man and woman. What does Genesis 2:18-23 say about ...

the things that are different about man and woman:

the things that are the same:

12. Read Genesis 1:26-27. When God made humanity, he made us male and female. Together male and female were to rule over the other creatures. We summarise the situation from Genesis 1 & 2 with a picture:



Read Genesis 3:1-6, 17. On the diagram above, trace the path of who listens to who as sin enters the world. Why is it notable that Adam bears the responsibility for sin entering the world according to Romans 5:12,14?

Women are encouraged to teach so there is no question of their ability. We saw this in question 6. In 1 Timothy 2:14 it doesn't say all women are easily deceived, rather that Eve was deceived not Adam. Adam's sin had a different nature. 1 Timothy 2:14 seems to relate to upholding the creation picture (above), like v13 does. What do you think?

13. Pray that men and women will be godly leaders in their different areas of Christlike servant authority. *Some* men, who are church teachers, ensure they are saved by watching their life as teachers (1 Tim 4:16). *Many* women ensure they are saved by watching their life as mothers (1 Tim 2:15).

Pray that appropriate men will accept the extra responsibility in their churches as elders (and all husbands in their homes) for holy leadership, becoming focussed on prayer.

Pray women will focus more their inner holiness than their outer appearance. Pray they will not despise childbearing and motherhood but with faith, love & holiness instruct each other and children.

We now **know** more of how we ought to conduct ourselves in God's household, which is the church of the living God, the pillar and foundation of the truth. Pray we'll now **do** it.

## Is the Bible Sexist? ... No No No!

### 1. "No ... the Bible is against evil male mistreatment of women."

The Bible is completely against oppressive male brutality and dominance. This can come in overt forms of domestic violence or in more subtle forms where a marriage is dominated by the self-centredness of the husband. This is a specific consequence of sin entering the world (Gen 3:16). The Bible explains that Christian life is characterised by love, service, kindness and self-sacrifice for the sake of others. It is about *giving* not about *taking*.

### 2. "No ... the Bible declares the equality of Men and Women."

- a. When made: *So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them. Genesis 1:27*
- b. When saved: *There is neither Jew nor Greek, slave nor free, male nor female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus. Galatians 3:28*
- c. In their interdependence: *woman is not independent of man, nor is man independent of woman. 1 Corinthians 11:11-12*
- d. When parenting: *Listen, my son, to your father's instruction and do not forsake your mother's teaching. Proverbs 1:8*
- e. In bed: *For the wife does not have authority over her own body, but the husband does; likewise the husband does not have authority over his own body, but the wife does. 1 Corinthians 7:4, NRSV*
- f. When giving pleasure: *a married man is concerned about ... how to please his wife ... a married woman is concerned about ... how to please her husband 1 Cor 7:33-34*

### 3. "No ... in the same way it's not sexist that men can't get pregnant."

*"It says I'm not allowed to because of my sex. Just because of some lottery of birth I can't fulfil my deepest aspirations. Why am I not permitted? Is that really fair?"*

This is a reasonable plea isn't it? It is particularly powerful in our society today. However, what if this was actually a man saying he wanted to give birth to a child but 'nature' wouldn't let him! Read the statement again with that in mind. What would you say to such a man who was frustrated by his desires? Perhaps you'd say "Sorry, I really feel for you, but it's just not something available to you. Please do try to enjoy what you are able to do."

God has set up 'nature' so that one gender is 'allowed' to do some things but the other isn't. God's creation 'permits' men to do some things and women to do other things. Only a man's sperm is *allowed* to determine the sex of a baby. Women only are *allowed* to nurture the baby in their womb. Most people accept these things and get on with what they *are able* to do. That is not 'sexist'!

God also says in his Word, the Bible, that each gender is permitted to do some things but not permitted to do other things. As we will see, men are to be the heads of the home and of the church, not women. So it's not only 'nature' that God created which 'declares' what one sex can and cannot do. If we accept what God has 'declared' in the way he created us then why don't we accept what he has declared in his clearer, more authoritative Word, the Bible?

#### ***In the Household:***

God states that the husband is the 'head' in marriage (Eph 5:23, 1 Cor 11:3). This is not speaking of what jumps to many people's minds when they think of 'head'. What does the Bible mean and not mean? The Bible means the husband accepts 'extra' responsibility within the marriage. He has the greater responsibility before God who holds us all to account. Responsibility for what? He has the *extra* responsibility for seeing that the marriage does what God intends a marriage to do. A Christian marriage is about becoming 'one' for God's glory and about having godly children (Gen 2:24, Mal 2:15). Christians are to have holy marriages and to raise holy children (Eph 5:25-28). Though both husband and wife bear that responsibility, the husband bears the *extra weight* of responsibility before God to see that the marriage is holy and that children are raised in holiness (see also Gen 3:8-11, Romans 5:12). God will judge the husband in a slightly different way to how he will judge the wife since the husband is the head.

What *doesn't* the Bible mean by a husband being the 'head'? The Bible's picture is completely different to the oppressive male dominance, as we saw with the first 'no'. Unfortunately some men have twisted the Bible's meaning to justify their own evil behaviour as husbands in this area, as people do with other areas. However, the evil misuse of a good thing doesn't mean we need to get rid of that good thing. People misuse cars but we still think they are helpful for those who use them properly. Headship in marriage is from God and he specifies very

clearly 'how' it is to be used in Ephesians 5:21-31. This passage is not giving a definition of 'headship' but explaining how headship is to be exercised: in loving self-sacrifice, just like Christ the head of the church exercises his headship. Self-giving love and sacrifice is a wonderful experience for any recipient. The Bible is prescribing the antidote to sexist behaviour not encouraging it, not even in the slightest.

A wife is to grant the extra responsibility to her husband as the head (Eph 5:22). There is a great deal that is interchangeable, symmetrical and mutual in marriage, however, the directives to husbands and wives are notably different at this point (Eph 5:24). Husbands are not told to grant that extra responsibility to their wives in the way that wives are told to for their husbands.

The Bible often speaks of headship in marriage and the appropriate response: Ephesians 5:21-33, Colossians 3:18-19, 1 Corinthians 11:3, Titus 2:5, 1 Peter 3:1-7. This is a wonderful complementary union where the two become one, as Jesus argues from Genesis (Matthew 19:4-6). The 'two are one' in decisions, in tasks and in responsibilities. The full potential of both brains should be used to make decisions. It is just that the husband bears extra responsibility before God for the marriage and the wife is called to grant him that responsibility. He cannot take it from her. Those passages above, call *her* to *choose*, not *him* to *take*. The Bible says nothing specifically of who is to do the washing up and who is to take the garbage out, except that it is all to be done in love & service of the other person.

### ***In God's Household, the Church:***

The Bible states some direct links between the church and the Christian home. The church is 'God's household' (1 Tim 3:15). There are important links in terms of our relationships as men and women (1 Tim 5:1-2). Godly teaching/management of both by males is also linked:

Now the overseer must be above reproach, the husband of but one wife, temperate, self-controlled, respectable, hospitable, able to teach, He must manage his own family well and see that his children obey him with proper respect. If anyone does not know how to manage his own family, how can he take care of God's church?  
1 Timothy 3:4-5

The church is called on to grant some appropriate men (ie. godly and 'able to teach') the responsibility to teach and oversee the church (1 Tim 2:11-12, 1 Tim 3:4-5). Although 1 Timothy 2:11-12 shocks us at first, it is simply saying that women are to show submission in just the same way that anyone who is not teaching or overseeing should show submission (Heb 13:7, 17). It is not about who is more able or more worthy but about who God has said is to have the extra responsibility (ie. Christlike servant authority) in this area. Just as men in the home are responsible before God for their diligence as the head, so too the male heads of the church are responsible before God for their diligence (Heb 13:17).

God encourages women to use the gifts of intelligence and oratory skill that they have been graciously given to be teachers of other women and teachers of the precious future generations growing up through church, namely our children. In this context it is not an issue to do with headship in a marriage or the church (Titus 2:3-5, Prov 1:8, 2 Tim 1:5, 3:14-15). Some women are just as capable of teaching as some men are, and should be encouraged to do so within these parameters the Bible gives.

A distinct category from the 'teachers' in a church were people who 'prophesied' (1 Cor 12:29). It was promised that all Christians, both men and women, would be able to prophesy (Acts 2:17-18). The testimony of Jesus is the spirit of prophecy (Rev 19:10). The 'revelation' of a prophecy (1 Cor 14:30) could have been a supernatural message or an insight through normal brain function (cf. Matt 16:17, Phil 3:15). Either way, it's truth was to be weighed up (1 Cor 14:29). In our context we have Bible study groups where a number of both men and women contribute insights (cf. 1 Cor 14:26) but there still remains male headship of the group. In any one of our church services a number of both men and women contribute insights as they chair the meeting, share testimonies and lead in prayer. However, there still remains male headship with those who are the 'teachers' (1 Cor 12:29, 1 Tim 3:2, 1 Tim 2:12). The passages in 1 Corinthians cannot be used to dismiss male headship since these very passages endorse male headship as a culturally independent principle, valid for all churches (1 Cor 11:3,8,16 & 14:33-35).

God's Word declares these things as the pattern for males and females. It bases this pattern on God's good intention in *creating the world*. Thus, it is not tied to any one culture (Gen 2:18-25, 1 Tim 2:11-13, 1 Cor 11:7-10, cf. 1 Cor 14:33-35). It is for all God's creation, whether in India or Australia, whether tomorrow or two thousand years ago. We should joyfully accept this as the way things are, just as people joyfully accept God's creation itself declaring what is permitted and what is not. We accept that a man is not permitted by creation to do certain things such as having the close affection of breast feeding his baby. There may be some women who find it hard (or even feel it's sexist) that they are not permitted to teach and head up the church. This may be a real struggle that requires prayer from many quarters. However, we do need to joyfully acknowledge the other opportunities for women to teach, such as to other women or to our precious children. A church sermon usually lasts about 20 minutes, once a week. Ministry to people takes place throughout the week in many contexts, what's-more it often involves women giving talks. Rather than focussing on what can't be done, why not focus on the tremendous opportunities available to build people up in Christ.

**Is God's Word sexist?** Well, only in the same sense that God's creation is sexist. In reality, not at all. It's a matter of God given parameters to enjoy life and work within, all for God's glory. Let's praise God that his commands are not burdensome (1 John 5:3-4).

## 1 Timothy 3 • Godly Elders and Deacons

1. How does TV portray the Christian leader? Describe the ideal Christian leader.

### Read 1 Timothy 3 (NASB)

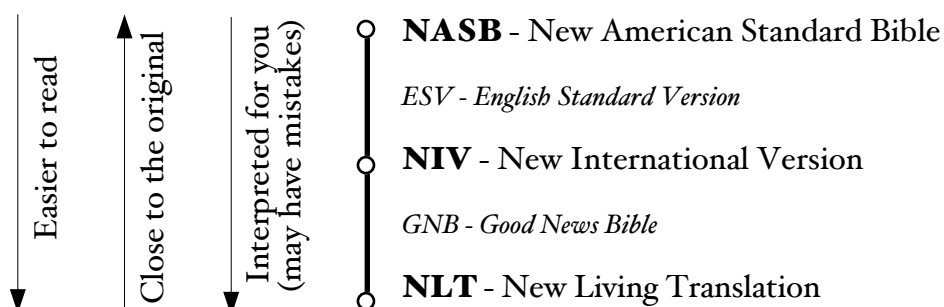
1 It is a trustworthy statement: if any man aspires to the office of overseer, it is a fine work he desires to do. 2 An overseer, then, must be above reproach, the husband of one wife, temperate, prudent, respectable, hospitable, able to teach, 3 not addicted to wine or pugnacious, but gentle, peaceable, free from the love of money. 4 He must be one who manages his own household well, keeping his children under control with all dignity 5 (but if a man does not know how to manage his own household, how will he take care of the church of God?), 6 and not a new convert, so that he will not become conceited and fall into the condemnation incurred by the devil. 7 And he must have a good reputation with those outside the church, so that he will not fall into reproach and the snare of the devil.

8 Deacons likewise must be men of dignity, not double-tongued, or addicted to much wine or fond of sordid gain, 9 but holding to the mystery of the faith with a clear conscience. 10 These men must also first be tested; then let them serve as deacons if they are beyond reproach. 11 Women must likewise be dignified, not malicious gossips, but temperate, faithful in all things. 12 Deacons must be husbands of only one wife, and good managers of their children and their own households. 13 For those who have served well as deacons obtain for themselves a high standing and great confidence in the faith that is in Christ Jesus.

14 I am writing these things to you, hoping to come to you before long; 15 but in case I am delayed, I write so that you will know how one ought to conduct himself in the household of God, which is the church of the living God, the pillar and support of the truth. 16 By common confession, great is the mystery of godliness:

He who was revealed in the flesh,  
Was vindicated in the Spirit,  
Seen by angels,  
Proclaimed among the nations,  
Believed on in the world,  
Taken up in glory.

### Bible Translations:



2. Read 1 Timothy 3:1-7. To help us understand these *positive* attributes more clearly, give a concrete *negative* example of some of them:

*above reproach*  
*the husband of but one wife (a one woman man)*  
*temperate (sober-minded)*  
*self-controlled (prudent)*  
*respectable*  
*hospitable*  
*able to teach (we will look at this later)*  
*not given to drunkenness*  
*not violent (pugnacious) but gentle*  
*not quarrelsome (peaceable)*  
*not a lover of money*

*He must manage his own family well and see that his children obey him with proper respect. (If anyone does not know how to manage his own family, how can he take care of God's church?)*

*He must not be a recent convert, or he may become conceited and fall under the same judgement as the devil.*

*He must also have a good reputation with outsiders, so that he will not fall into disgrace and into the devil's trap.*

3. The New Testament churches had more than one 'overseer'. They were a group of men who were to 'oversee' the governing of the church. Other terms used of the *same* group are 'Elders' and 'Pastors/Shepherds' (in 1 Peter 5:1-2, Titus 1:6-7, Acts 20:17,28-29). As we saw in 1 Timothy 3:2 they were to teach (also 1 Tim 5:17, Titus 1:9). Though all Christians *teach* (Col 3:16) there were some set aside for a special teaching role in God's family (James 3:1, 1 Cor 12:29). Within the 'Elders' some were more regular teachers than others (1 Tim 5:17).

- What do you think is involved in being 'able to teach'?
- What light do these verses shed on 'able to teach':

Titus 1:9

1 Corinthians 2:1-5

2 Timothy 2:24-26

- Pray that men and women in Bible Colleges will grow in their Christian life and doctrine so they can encourage others. Pray for men who plan in the future to steer churches and teach as overseers.

4. The list in v1-7 is not only helpful for choosing 'elders' of a church but for choosing people for other roles. Rate/discuss the roles below:

VS: very similar qualifications as for the elder/overseer

S: similar

D: different

VD: very different

	Rating:	Difference:
Church Electrician	VD	No need to teach.
Kids Church teacher		
Singing Leader		
Leader of a Bible Study Group		
A youth leader		
Supper or morning-tea organiser		
The Women's Ministry Leader		
Person door knocking on behalf of church		
Usher at the church door		
Prayer leader in church		

5. Why are churches tempted to choose people for leadership based on other criteria? What problems might arise if they do?

6. How is this list for overseers helpful for us when we choose a church? What should happen if a minister commits adultery?

**Deacons:**

7. Though all Christians *teach* there are some set aside to teach. Though all Christians *serve*, there are some set aside to serve. In verses 8-13 the passages turns to 'servants' or 'deacons' (Greek: diakonos).

Read Acts 6:1-7. How was the gospel able to spread with the help of people who 'served' (deacon-ed or *diakonos*-ed in v2. NIV: 'wait')?

How does our church recognise and highly value, like the Apostle Paul, the men and women who are deacons/servants?

Read Romans 16:1-2.

8. What does 'godliness' (v16) have to do with the rest of 1 Timothy 3?

**Prayer Time:**

- Pray for people desiring to be overseers/elders/pastors and specific 'servants'. Pray they will think hard about these passages.
  
- Pray for our church overseers and 'servants'.
  
- Praise God for the mystery of godliness revealed!

## 1 Timothy 4 • True and False Godliness

What tasks do people train themselves for? How much time and effort have you seen people put in? What have you trained yourself for?

**Read 1 Timothy 4**     *{Note: doctrine = teachings, minister = servant}*

1 The Spirit clearly says that in later times some will abandon the faith and follow deceiving spirits and things taught by demons. 2 Such teachings come through hypocritical liars, whose consciences have been seared as with a hot iron. 3 They forbid people to marry and order them to abstain from certain foods, which God created to be received with thanksgiving by those who believe and who know the truth. 4 For everything God created is good, and nothing is to be rejected if it is received with thanksgiving, 5 because it is consecrated by the word of God and prayer.

6 If you point these things out to the brothers, you will be a good minister [ie. servant] of Christ Jesus, brought up in the truths of the faith and of the good teaching [ie. doctrine] that you have followed. 7 Have nothing to do with godless myths and old wives' tales; rather, train yourself to be godly. 8 For physical training is of some value, but godliness has value for all things, holding promise for both the present life and the life to come.

9 This is a trustworthy saying that deserves full acceptance 10 (and for this we labour and strive), that we have put our hope in the living God, who is the Saviour of all men, and especially of those who believe.

11 Command and teach these things. 12 Don't let anyone look down on you because you are young, but set an example for the believers in speech, in life, in love, in faith and in purity. 13 Until I come, devote yourself to the public reading of Scripture, to preaching and to teaching. 14 Do not neglect your gift, which was given you through a prophetic message when the body of elders laid their hands on you.

15 Be diligent in these matters; give yourself wholly to them, so that everyone may see your progress. 16 Watch your life and doctrine [ie. teachings] closely. Persevere in them, because if you do, you will save both yourself and your hearers.

1. Underline every occurrence of the word 'you' & 'your' in the passage.

Who is the 'you' in each case?

Where does 'you' occur in chapters 2 and 3?

What is the different 'feel' to the chapters because of this?

2. In chapters 2 and 3 we have very general instructions and teaching:

Who do these verses specifically target?

2:1

2:4-5

2:8

2:12

3:1

3:15

3:16

3. Imagine we found letter from the President of the USA to our Prime Minister regarding a terrorist plot. It would still have huge application for us even though not addressed to us in name. It potentially could have all three of the areas mentioned below:

- A. Broad truths: *Their bombs can wipe out a whole city.*
- B. Instructions for the leaders to pass on to all: *Tell everyone to prepare for the attack.*
- C. Instructions to the leader himself: *Be full of courage & get some sleep.*

Examine 1 Timothy 4 to find elements to place in the categories below:

**A. Broad truths/teachings:**

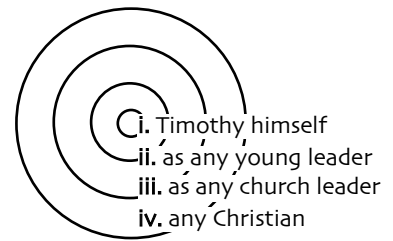
eg. everything created is good (v4), godliness has value for all things (v8).

**B. Instructions to for Timothy to pass on to all**

eg. v6 point these out, ie false teachers ...

**C. Instructions to Timothy**

i. Timothy himself  
(ie the young circumcised Greek male ...)  
eg. 2 Tim 4:13 'bring my cloak'



ii. as any *young* leader  
eg. don't let anyone look down on you because you are young

iii. as any church leader  
eg. devote yourself to preaching and teaching ...

iv. any Christian  
eg. train yourself to be godly

4. Which groups today want to people to not marry or eat certain foods? Why might this seem godly but isn't?

5. Discuss how we can train ourselves in godliness. How will you?

6. Pray about the truths we learn and the instructions we are given from 1 Timothy 4.

## 1 Timothy 5 • Honouring Widows and Elders

1. Is refusing people under 18 from joining the police force discrimination?
2. What are the appropriate ways to treat the different groups mentioned in this chapter?

***Group***

***How we are to treat them.***

Older men

Younger men

Older Women

Younger women

Widow with family.

Widow without family

Some Elders:

*those who work hard at preaching  
and teaching. See also Gal 6:6.*

All Elders:

*all who direct the affairs of the church  
& who teach 1 Tim 3:2 & Titus 1:9*

3. Why don't we just treat everybody in exactly the same way? Is or isn't it discrimination to treat people differently because of who they are?

4. *Widows with a special role?*

Verses 3-8 focus on widows in need being 'honoured' with food or money. See Acts 6:1. Verses 9-15 mention a 'list of widows'. It seems possible that this is a group from within the 'widows' with some special role.

What qualifies a widow to get on this list, according to v9-10

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- 
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What sort of pledge might be involved in joining the list, from verse 11-12.

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What did their role involve?

*We're not told. Perhaps prayer and/or serving in some way. However, by the end of the 2nd century there was an 'order' of widows who gave themselves to prayer, nursed the sick, cared for orphans, visited Christians in prison, evangelised pagan women and taught female converts in preparation for their baptism.*

5. What are some key principles that are raised in the discussion on widows? See James 1:27.

v3,5

v8,16

See also James 1:27.

6. Are there things that we need to change as a church in light of the *principles* and *priorities* that this chapter reveals with regard to :

widows (and those in a similar positions to widows)

elders

7. Are there things that you need to change in the way you relate to different people?

8. Pray.

## 1 Timothy 6 • Getting Really Rich

1. Throughout 1 Timothy, Paul addresses focusses on people/groups. Who are these specific instructions to in this passage.

Slavery:

*The Bible is against capturing people for slavery (1 Tim 1:10). People could sell themselves into slavery - ancient bankruptcy. The Bible prefers Christians to be free (1 Cor 7:21, Philemon). Though very different, many employers today bind people in economic slavery since the person's debts make them bow to every desire of their boss.*

2. Fill in the table below with regard to money's do's and don'ts:

	Do	Don't
Christians who have what they need (v6-10)		
Rich Christians - eg. Australian Christians (v17-19)		

3. What do some other parts of the Bible have to say about the dangers of wealth? Look up the following passages ...

*Deuteronomy 8:10-14, Psalm 49:16-20, Prov 18:11, Ecclesiastes 5:10-12, Matt 6:19-21 and 24, Matt 19:16-23, Luke 12:13-21.*

... in order to examine rich people and their attitudes to :

- a. riches & material possessions
- b. the future
- c. themselves & others
- d. God

4. What could the 'griefs' be that are mentioned in verse 10? *Note that 'they pierce themselves' (self inflicted).*

5. What is "godliness with contentment"?

Why is it great gain?

6. Is money evil?

7. What could it mean for Timothy to 'take hold of eternal life to which he is called'?

8. How do verses 3-10 speak to the idea of 'prosperity doctrine' preached in some churches today?

*Prosperity Doctrine: If you are godly then God will bless you with material wealth.*

9. What directions does this passage give us as rich Australians about how to use our income? (esp v17-19) *Remember: we are among the wealthiest top few percent on earth, even by just being a member of our society.*

Pray.



*how people ought to conduct themselves in God's household,  
which is the church of the living God,  
the pillar and foundation of the truth.*

*1 Timothy 3:15*