



You're planting a new church. Together with the rest of the team you want it to be Bible based and culturally relevant. You then wonder about the roles of elder and deacon in your new church and who will be doing the teaching. Should these roles be limited to men, in keeping the Biblical teaching that men are to serve as leaders in their households? Or should men and women be equally eligible for such roles?

### **Read 1 Timothy 2:8-15.**

- 1) What is Paul's dual purpose for writing his first letter to Timothy? (1 Tim 1:3-4 & 1 Tim 3:14-15)
- 2) Read 1 Timothy 2:4 (cf 1 Tim 1:15). Why is it important how the household of God behaves?

### **Men in the church – v8**

- 3) What does Paul want men to do? How can we build prayerful men?
- 4) 'holy hands' is an expression that captures holiness of life. In this verse, what does holiness mean getting rid of? How can we help men do this? (see also James 1:19-20; 1 Peter 3:7)

### **What women wear – v9-10**

- 5) Read 1 Timothy 2:9-10. How are women in Christ's church to clothe themselves?
- 6) What attitudes of heart will be expressed outwardly with respectable apparel and good deeds? What do you find helpful in cultivating these attitudes?
- 7) What sort of clothes are Christian women to avoid? Are the examples Paul gives always wrong – or are they illustrating a potential problems? How can we help Christian women in 'what not to wear' and instead embracing modesty and self-control?

### **Women, teaching and authority – v11-15**

- 8) What does Paul want women to do in v11? What does he not allow in v12? Between what is encouraged and what is forbidden is the area of questions and choices. Scripture is sufficient for us to make timely & God honouring applications. How can we do this with truth & grace?
- 9) What reason does Paul give for his prohibition in v13-14? Why is it significant that Paul bases his argument on the created order in Genesis rather than circumstances in Ephesus?
- 10) What word based ministries are women encouraged to pursue? ( See Titus 2:3-5; 2 Tim 1:5, 3:15, Proverbs 1:8; Acts 21:9; 1 Corinthians 11:4; Luke 24:1-10). How can we encourage women in teaching ministries?
- 11) You're planting a new church... (see above). How does God's word here shape your plans?