



Do you ever have difficulty approaching God in prayer? The Christ followers in Ephesus did. The barriers to prayer described here are anger, an over-emphasis on appearance, and an inappropriate role for women. Having sized up the situation and reminded Timothy of his mission, Paul outlines first steps to dealing with the needs of the church.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Read and meditate on [1st Timothy 2:1-15](#). Jot down 1 or 2 new thoughts that seem important. Why are they important?
2. Find all the times Paul says “all” and “everyone” in [verses 1-6](#). What does the use of these terms communicate about God?
3. Why do you think Paul emphasizes the word “one” in [verse 5](#)?
4. This entire chapter deals with worship. The church in Ephesus was probably a network of house churches. Their worship may have been patterned after the Jewish synagogues which separated men and women. What problem hindered the worship by men in [verse 8](#)?
5. In [verse 9](#), what problem hindered the worship by women?
6. In [verses 11-12](#), Paul appears to forbid women to teach men. But in [1st Corinthians 11:5](#), he tells them how to dress when they preach (or prophesy). How do you reconcile these texts?
7. According to this entire passage, what could hinder worship and sharing the gospel with others?
8. Considering question #7 above, which of those problems you listed are issues for you personally? How can you better deal with or overcome these issues in your life?

MOVING FORWARD

The different words used for prayer focus not so much on different types of prayer as on the scope of prayer—that we can come to God with requests, plead for God's mercy, and give thanks.

Pray now for your church's worship and for your personal worship. Ask God if there is anything in your personal life that is inhibiting either personal or public worship. Ask God for wisdom and an action plan to remove those things that are inhibiting your personal worship and keeping you from drawing people closer to Jesus.

CHANGING YOUR MIND

¹ First of all, then, I urge that petitions, prayers, intercessions, and thanksgivings be made for everyone, ² for kings and all those who are in authority, so that we may lead a tranquil and quiet life in all godliness and dignity.” [2nd Timothy 2:1-2](#)