Lownes Free Church Sunday Morning – February 17, 2019

**Nurturing God’s Family**

**Planting, Establishing, and Leading Local Churches**

Practical Principles from The Pastoral Letters

**“Pray God’s Salvation, Reflect God’s Creation.”**

**1 Timothy 2:1-15**

Like many of our New Testament letters, this one is written to correct abuses and restore order. While the principles here are universal, the very reason Paul gives them is that God’s character, creation order, and salvation have been challenged from the beginning.

 Timothy’s mission is to correct false teachers (1:3, 4, 19, 20), but he also must deal with the effects of the false teaching in the life of the community (4:1-4; 5:11-15), and restore order to God’s Household (3:14-16). So Paul (chapters 2, 3) sets the record straight on salvation and leadership in the context of how the church prays and worships

**What are Paul’s key points?** Let’s cultivate a worshipful lifestyle. . .

✓ By praying for all peoples, especially political leaders. vv. 1, 2a

✓ That kind of prayer makes for peace to live godly lives. v. 2b

✓ It also pleases God, who wants all to know truth and be saved. vv. 3, 4

✓ And it echoes God’s salvation plan and our own mission. vv. 5-7

✓ The men reflect that plan as they pray in holiness and unity. v. 8

✓ And the women, likewise, reflect that plan as they fulfill their roles in His creation order in

 both church and home. vv. 9-15

***What is the Big Idea?***

 *A church is established as it prays in holiness and unity*

*for the salvation of the nations*

*and reflects God’s creation order as male and female in His image.*

***How do we apply these principles?***

***1. Jew and Gentile?*** God’s promise to Abraham (Gen. 12) was to bless all nations. But false teachers (1:6-11) misinterpreted the law, and at the same time were continuing the traditions of the law that separated Jews from the “unclean” Gentiles (4:1-4). So Paul encourages all kinds of prayers for all kinds of people at all times and places. Do you pray daily for the nations? Acts 17:24-28

***2. Prayer and Anger?*** Apparently the public worship services had become divisive, and men indifferent, so Paul calls for the men to lead spiritually with unifying prayer. Jesus warned, also relating worship and anger, that before we offer a sacrifice, we should go and first be reconciled to our brother (Matthew 5:21-26). Do you have an unreconciled relationship with a brother or sister in Christ?

***3. Equal and Submissive?*** Paul challenges alternative gender narratives, making some connections which were obvious to his culture but not our own. He is not addressing a woman’s native abilities, but her classic responsibilities, which, like the man’s, can’t be outsourced or ignored. He is not saying a woman can’t be a queen, president, or CEO, or work outside the home. He is opposing the heresy that with the coming of the Kingdom, gender differences disappeared, so marriage and motherhood no longer matter. Jesus did not come to upend Creation, but restore it.

Just as the Son submits to the Father within the equality of the Trinity, man and woman fulfill complementary functions as equals before God. Ephesians 5; 1 Corinthians 7, 11, 14