

1 timothy

Home Group Discussion Guide

The Character of a Healthy Church

1 Timothy 2:8-15

ICEBREAKER: Why do you think Jesus was born? Why were you born?

OVERVIEW: Christianity is a team sport, and the team is called the church. All Christians are called to membership — active commitment and participation in the church. And we can either be a winning team or a losing team. The good news is that our coach is a genius — Jesus Christ. He has all the answers to what makes a winning team. All we have to do is follow His directions. In this discussion we will dig deeper into the character of a healthy church.

1. Read 1 Timothy 2:8-15. What insight, principle, or observation from this weekend's message did you find to be the most helpful, eye-opening, or troubling? Explain. (Or what was your key takeaway from Sunday's message?)
2. Why do Christians need to be committed to and participating in the church rather than being loners?
3. How has God used the church to bless you (either Church Acadiana, or a previous church)? Why are you thankful for the church?
4. In the sermon, it was said that several things are important for a church to be health: We need to understand our identity; we need to understand our mission; we need to preach sound doctrine; and we need to have Christlike character. If you had to choose one, which do think is the most important?

5. In verse 8, Paul wrote that the men of the church must be holy. What is holiness and why is it important for the church to be healthy?
6. What is the biggest threat to your personal holiness, and what do you need to grow in this area and resist temptation?
7. In verse 8, Paul says that the men of the church must be unified? What are some common unity killers — on a team, a family, at work, at home, at church, etc...?
8. What are some attitudes and actions you can take to guard the unity of the church?
9. In verses 9-10, Paul instructs the women to strive for modesty in their appearance. What can you do to make sure that your appearance is modest and glorifying to God?
10. In verses 11-15, Paul instructs the women to be submissive in the church. What are some common misconceptions about submission?

BONUS: What's the difference between complementarianism and egalitarianism?

11. Why does God want the church to be led by godly men rather than godly women (for further study see 1 Corinthians 14:33-38) ?

The Last Word: As Christians we are called to be a part of the church. There are no Christian loners. And the key to being a healthy church is not merely what we do, but our character as individuals. A healthy church requires the men to be holy and unified, and the women to be modest and submissive.