Embracing Life in the Body of Christ | A Series in 1 Timothy

MEN AND WOMEN IN THE BODY OF CHRIST

1 Timothy 2:8-15

By Rod MacIlvaine

Introduction: : In our study in 1 Timothy, we come to one of the most controversial passages in the Bible. How should men and women work together in a local church? Because Paul's instructions *here* seem to contradict Paul's activity in *other parts* of the New Testament, interpreters have come up with wildly divergent interpretations and applications of this passage. It is probable that more has been written on this passage than any other single passage in the Bible, especially in the last 50 years. Today, I plan to present these verses to you in a different manner than normal. Rather than unfolding Paul's words and moving to application, I want to show you how these verses should be interpreted and why. It's like taking your car to the mechanic for repairs: Normally, you don't want to know all the repairman did under the hood. You just want the repairs to be done well and for your car to work. But sometimes you might be interested in how a repair is done, because someday, you might want to do it yourself. That's the approach I want to take. I want to take you under the hood of the car to see the background and details of this passage. I want you to see exactly what Paul meant in the culture that *he was in*, so that we can accurately apply these concepts in the very different culture that *we are in*. Hopefully, by the end of the message, Paul's words and Paul's applications will be crystal clear. But here's a preview: This passage is highly encouraging to both men and women.

1. **First things first** – How should we interpret a biblical passage when it is unclear or seems contradictory?

2. **Comparing Scripture with Scripture** – What did Paul teach about women in leadership other New Testament passages?

3. Exploring Ephesian culture

4. So, what is Paul addressing?
1 Tim. 2:11-12; 13-15

5. Main Idea

6. Takeaways