

1 Timothy

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- Letters between people who know each other well
- Occasional letters
- Cultural differences

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1 Timothy 2: 9

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A deacon must be faithful to his wife...

1 Timothy 3:12

I do not permit a woman to teach or to assume authority over a man

1 Timothy 2: 12

How to read Paul's letters?

1. Read the whole letter

¹ Paul, an apostle of Christ Jesus by the command of God our Saviour and of Christ Jesus our hope,² to Timothy, my loyal child in the faith: Grace, mercy, and peace from God the Father and Christ Jesus our Lord.

³ I urge you, as I did when I was on my way to Macedonia, to remain in Ephesus so that you may instruct certain people not to teach any different doctrine,⁴ and not to occupy themselves with myths and endless genealogies that promote speculations rather than the divine training that is known by faith.⁵ But the aim of such instruction is love that comes from a pure heart, a good conscience, and sincere faith.

1 Timothy 1: 1-5 (NRSV)

¹ Paul, an apostle of King Jesus according to the command of God our Saviour and King Jesus our hope,² to Timothy, my true child in faith: grace, mercy, and peace from God the father and King Jesus our Lord.

How to read Paul's letters?

1. Read the whole letter
2. Use the rest of scripture to provide context

²⁸ Keep watch over yourselves and all the flock of which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers. Be shepherds of the church of God, which he bought with his own blood. ²⁹ I know that after I leave, savage wolves will come in among you and will not spare the flock. ³⁰ Even from your own number men will arise and distort the truth in order to draw away disciples after them.

Acts 20: 28-30

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3. Use other historical information as context
4. Do exegesis before hermeneutics
5. Be humble

Who wrote Paul's first letter to
Timothy?

'...it seems fair to observe that [Pastoral Epistle] scholarship is sometimes overimpressed with its own judgements about what Paul could, or (especially) could not, have said or done.

Gordon D. Fee, NIBC 1 & 2 Timothy, Titus

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1 Timothy 1: 3-4 (NRSV)