

**Praying for All Things (1 Timothy 2:1-6)**

1. Supplication, prayer, intercession, and thanksgivings should be made for all people
  - a. All of these are different ways of talking about prayer. The first three discuss modes of prayer that involve the kind and intensity of the petition. The implication is that humans should be going to God with *all* of the requests we have that we would just typically share with one another. The last, thanksgiving, is the kind of prayer that suggests gratitude.
  - b. Prayers should be lifted for all because, as we shall discuss, God wills all to be saved.
2. Praying politically
  - a. We should pray for all types of rulers. Jews offered a sacrifice for the foreign rulers who conquered them. This went all the way back to the time of Ezra (6:9-10). The Romans were willing to allow more freedom in the practice of Jewish religion because they knew that the Jews were praying for their leaders. This can be complicated in democratic settings because we may not like those in authority. Furthermore, we are encouraged to utilize free speech. But we must still be willing to pray for those who have political power.
  - b. The goal of prayer is so we can live with peace. Jeremiah instructed Israel to seek the peace of the city in which they will reside (Jer 29:7). Once they were in exile, it would be necessary to lift up the city to make sure everyone is well in the city.
3. We do all of this to please “God our savior.” God is sovereign over all and involved in the big things of life and the smallest things. Our aim must be to please him. We should be trying to do what he likes because there is only one will that will prevail, that is his. This is why Paul highlights that there is only one God, (read: not many gods (human or otherwise)) and one mediator. And God’s will, through Christ, is that all people might be saved and come to him in truth. This is what we should be seeking in the world.