**Gracious Citizenship**

*1 Timothy 2:1-8*

3 freedoms believers should pursue

**I. Freedom to pray for leaders**

A. We do that in a number of ways:

* **Entreaties**—to be without something.
It is prayer that arises out of a sense of need
* **Prayers**—carries with it a unique element of worship and reverence
* **Petitions**—to fall in with someone
advocacy, empathy, compassion, and involvement
* **Thanksgivings**—a spirit of gratitude

B. We do that on behalf of all men

**1 Timothy 2:5**—…one mediator also between God and men, the man Christ Jesus, who gave Himself as a ransom for all

C. We do that remembering His providential hand

**Matthew 6:9**—Pray, then, in this way, Our Father who is in heaven, Hallowed be Your name

**Proverbs 21:1**—The king’s heart is like channels of water in the hand of the Lord; He turns it wherever He wishes.

D. We do that in submission to His purposes

**Matthew 6:10**—Your kingdom come. Your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.

**II. Freedom to express our faith**

1. We do that in love

**Eph 4:15**—but speaking the truth in love, we are to grow up in all *aspects* into Him who is the head, *even* Christ,

**1 Timothy 2:1-2**—First of all, then, I urge that entreaties and prayers, petitions and thanksgivings, be made on behalf of all men, for kings and all who are in authority, so that we may lead a tranquil and quiet life in all godliness and dignity.

**2 Timothy 2:24-25**—The Lord’s bond-servant must not be quarrelsome, but be kind to all, able to teach, patient when wronged, with gentleness correcting those who are in opposition, if perhaps God may grant them repentance leading to the knowledge of the truth…

B. We do that consistent with biblical truths

**2:2**— …in all godliness and dignity

**1 Corinthians 5:9-13**—I wrote you in my letter not to associate with immoral people; I did not at all mean with the immoral people of this world, or with the covetous and swindlers, or with idolaters, for then you would have to go out of the world. But actually, I wrote to you not to associate with any so-called brother if he is an immoral person, or covetous, or an idolater, or a reviler, or a drunkard, or a swindler—not even to eat with such a one. For what have I to do with judging outsiders? Do you not judge those who are within the church? But those who are outside, God judges. Remove the wicked man from among yourselves.

C. We do that in a way that fosters it for everyone

**III. Freedom to preach the gospel**

**1 Timothy 2:3-8**—This is good and acceptable in the sight of God our Savior, who desires all men to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth. For there is one God, and one mediator also between God and men, the man Christ Jesus, who gave Himself as a ransom for all, the testimony given at the proper time. For this I was appointed a preacher and an apostle (I am telling the truth, I am not lying) as a teacher of the Gentiles in faith and truth. Therefore, I want the men in every place to pray, lifting up holy hands, without wrath and dissension.