



Does “The 2-2-2 Principle” open the door for women teachers?

Absolutely wide open! In his last letter to Timothy, the Apostle Paul demonstrated his passion and his speed for increasing the spread of the Good News. He gave Timothy clear instructions about HOW the multiplication should take place, and WHO can do it. Because the advice comes from 2 Timothy 2:2, we call it... **The 2-2-2 Principle:**

| Key Term |
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| ἄνθρωπος |
| <i>anthropos</i> = human |

*“And the things you have heard me say in the presence of many witnesses entrust to reliable **people** (anthropos) who will also be qualified to teach others.”*

Many translations of the Bible say, “entrust to reliable men...”. However, Paul used a Greek word that clearly included both men and women. At first glance, this verse may not seem directly related to men and women laboring shoulder-to-shoulder. However, consider what Paul COULD have said. He could have specified “males” (*aner*) as the only reliable and qualified teachers. The use of *aner* would clearly demonstrate Paul intended for only men to be Bible teachers. Instead, Paul used the neuter word *anthropos* which means “humans” or “people.” If Paul wanted to close the door for women, he missed a big opportunity here! By calling out reliable and qualified *anthropos*... the original audience would clearly understand good teaching must be passed to others - men and women - who could faithfully pass it on. This verse opens the door for godly women teachers!* Though false teachers abounded in Ephesus (both male and female), Paul wanted faithful people to multiply Good News (See the One-Pager, *Can a woman teach with godly authority?* to understand how often Paul referred to false teachers in his first letter to Timothy.)

So, WHO qualifies to teach based on this open door? Godly men and women. May Paul’s **2-2-2 Principle** inspire you!

Anthropos showed Paul wanted MORE Gospel spreaders!

Multiplication to four generations

So, HOW should these godly *anthropos* spread the Gospel? While Paul opened the door for all godly teachers, both male and female, he also explained the multi-generational plan. In 2-2-2 we also see four distinct generations.

- **First generation** - Paul himself, said “the things” to Timothy.
- **Second generation** - Timothy is the “you” who “heard me say” those “things.”
- **Third generation** - “Reliable people” (*anthropos*) who are “qualified to teach” should be “entrusted,” so that...
- **Fourth generation** - “Others” are taught by those qualified teachers.

Multiplying generations shows transferrable DNA.

Conclusion

The 2-2-2 Principle displays Paul’s heart to multiply the Good News. In 2 Timothy 2:2, Paul opened up biblical teaching to all godly teachers, and he laid out a plan for Gospel multiplication. Are you a leader like Paul who sought to multiply the Gospel, or do you use Paul to try to limit the Good News teachers? Let’s be like Paul!

* Additional notes on *anthropos*

Anthropos CAN also mean “male,” but in those cases it is used in a passages connected with a woman (*gune*) (See Matt. 19:5, 1 Cor. 7:1, Eph 5:31). When *anthropos* stands alone, not in the context of a wife or woman, it carries the standard, neuter meaning of “human being” or “person.” 2 Tim. 2:2 is not about *gune*. So here, *anthropos* is neuter and means “people.”

| 4 Crucial Questions |
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| 1. What does this teach us about GOD ? |
| 2. What does this teach us about PEOPLE ? |
| 3. What command should I OBEY ? |
| 4. With whom can I SHARE this? |