

1st Timothy

Fall 2024

Week 3 - Timothy 1: 5 - 11

“What “Right” looks like in a Church according to Paul

- **Sound Doctrine**
- A place of Grace
- Prayer (for everyone especially leaders)
- Godly Elders and Deacons
- Teaching the Bible
- Caring for People
- Pursuing Godliness

1 Timothy 1: 5 - 11

“The goal of this command is love, which comes from a pure heart and a good conscience and a sincere faith. Some have departed from these and have turned to meaningless talk. They want to be teachers of the law, but they do not know what they are talking about or what they so confidently affirm.” We know that the law is good if one uses it properly. We also know that the law is made not for the righteous but for lawbreakers and rebels, the ungodly and sinful, the unholy and irreligious, for those who kill their fathers or mothers, for murderers, for the sexually immoral, for those practicing homosexuality, for slave traders and liars and perjurers—and for whatever else is contrary to the sound doctrine that conforms to the gospel concerning the glory of the blessed God, which he entrusted to me.”

Background –

- ❖ Theme throughout 1st Timothy is the prevailing false doctrines and peripheral issues that leads believers from maturing in Christ.
 - It distracts Christians from the essence of the gospel message
- ❖ Paul teaches that there is no minimalizing God’s standards of acceptable behavior in the Gospel
- ❖ Sound Doctrine is the very foundation in which the gospel moves forward.
 - If the church doesn’t have sound doctrine (a set of beliefs based on scripture) then it won’t really know what God’s standard is for right and wrong
- ❖ The Purpose of the instruction we’ve given you
 - **Love out of a pure heart**
 - Obedience – Called out what you’ve been called to do without regards for yourself. “Doing the right thing when nobody’s looking.” The action of obedience is tirelessness
 - Being “pure of heart” is acknowledging God is in control and we have given total control of our lives over to God
 - **Clear Conscience**
 - Paul mentions three types of conscience in Timothy
 - Good Conscience (1:5,19)
 - Clear Conscience (3:9)
 - Seared Conscience (4:2)

- Worst type of conscience to have – numb to what is right and wrong. Psychologist today call someone with a seared conscience a psychopath. (1-4% population in US)
- In our culture it's referred to as the "Good Angel and Bad Angel" on our shoulder"
- As Christians, our moral reference point is the Holy Spirit and God's Spirit convicts me of those things that are wrong and guides us toward the truth
- All of us are created in the image of God. He has given us the capacity to understand right from wrong.
- Sincere Faith
 - Trust God and not abandon faith when we're going through difficult times
 - To be strong and stand firm against the evil that is taunting us daily
- ❖ Modern society has departed from scriptural teaching of right and wrong and often suggest there is no absolute standard of goodness
- ❖ Law was not made for the righteous person, but was given in the context of human sinfulness
 - Identifies who the unrighteous are.
 - "Amazing Grace" was written by John Newton, a known slave trader writes my "mind is nearly gone but two things I can remember. I am a great sinner, and Christ is a great savior"
 - "It may surprise us to find liars in this gross list of sinners since in modern times lying has almost become a way of life for some who are concerned with their positions or reputations...in 1974 the sayings of the year included these words 'in our country the lie has become not just a moral category, but a pillar of the state.'" (W. John Cook p.15)
- ❖ Gospel story is founded upon the premise of the Law of God. John 1:1
 - Jesus, whom the Gospel message doesn't happen without, is the living Word of God
 - Law presented to us by Moses,
 - Set forth by the Law of God
 - Straying from law of God prevented the message
 - Foundation of the Gospel radicalizes people

Points to Ponder – 1st Timothy 1: 5 – 11

1. How do Christians wander away from being "pure in heart," good conscience" and "sincere faith."
2. What does it mean that the Law is not made for the righteous, but for the lawbreakers and rebels?

3. What happens when we don't love one another through the instruction of the Lord about "purity of heart"
4. What are some examples of meaningless talk?
5. What's the role of Sincere faith in a believer according to Paul
6. Paul is excited about being entrusted with the Gospel. Have we been entrusted with the gospel and if so, what do we do with this knowledge?

When we have issues about the rightness or wrongness of a teaching, we need to look at Paul's standard sets in this section of Timothy:

1. Does it promote God's work by faith
2. Does it lead others toward love and good deeds?

"And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds," (Heb 10:24)

Outline of 1st Timothy

- I. Salutation (1:1–2)
- II. The charge concerning false teachers (1:3–4)
 - a. The charge to preserve the purity of the Gospel (1:5–11)
 - b. Two examples (1:12–20)
- III. Instructions concerning pastoral ministry (2:1–3:16)
 - a. Public worship (2:1–15)
 - i. The duty of prayer (2:1–7)
 - ii. The position of men in public worship (2:8–10)
 - iii. The position of women in public worship (2:11–15)
 - b. The qualifications for public ministry (3:1–13)
 - i. Overseers (or pastors) (3:1–7)
 - ii. Deacons (3:8–13)
 - iii. The center and substance of public ministry (3:14–16)
- IV. Opposing false teachers (4:1–16)
 - a. False teachers described (4:1–5)
 - b. The pastor's work against false teachers (4:6–16)
- V. Pastoral ministry with various groups (5–6:2)
 - a. Older and younger, widows, elders, and slaves (5:1–25)
 - b. Concluding exhortations (6:3–19)
 - c. Reiteration of Charge (6:20–21)

References:

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