

MEN'S LIFE BLOOMINGTON & GOD @ WORK

Tuesday, April 13, 2021

In Love, Confront False Teachers, and Encourage Right Living

Overview: Paul instructs Timothy to go to Ephesus to command false teachers to stop, but do it with love. He gives Timothy the truth about how leaders should be, how we should be, and what the message should be.

Video: Bible Project | 1 Timothy: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7RoqnGcEjcs>

Segment Questions: (References are on back)

- Do you see a parallel from back then to today for leaders who are teaching odd doctrines, and who focus on wealth and success rather than simple living, loving one another? What are some of those off teachings?
- When Paul outlines qualifications for being a leader in the church, do you feel like you quickly disqualify yourself because you know how short you fall? Who is worthy?

Read Bible 1:1

- 1 Timothy 1:3-9
- 1 Timothy 1:15-16

Action Questions:

- How can we be on the look out for false teachings when they sound so good to the ear, and become so socially accepted?
- In a world so full of words, social hot topics, laws, regulations, and cliques, how can you keep it simple when it comes to your faith, and to your mission?

Closing Personal Prayer:

Jesus, help us return to divine simplicity, where we seek your love and favor. Forgive us of our sins, and restore integrity and honor into our lives so we can be a blessing to YOU and others. Help us resist temptation, and be a light to this world, on a mission of grace, mercy, love, and restorative salvation through your death on the cross.

Introduction

In 1 Timothy Paul sends Timothy on a mission to Ephesus to confront, in love, and command those leaders who have begun to teach false and odd doctrine. Paul understands there are distorted teachings coming from these people. Odd rules and regulations were being taught, i.e. not to eat meat, or to avoid marriage. Paul says the litmus test for proper teaching should result in love and genuine faith.

Paul goes on to say he is a good example of a sinner saved by grace and mercy. God wants to save everyone, so we should pray for all to come to Christ.

Paul then outlines who should be leaders in the church, and how leaders should live. Paul feels current leaders in Ephesus are not filled with integrity, and their aim has begun to focus on making money. He reminds us that money can be the root of all kinds of evil. He encourages us to live simply, and to be genuine in our love and faith. He tells us to be rich in good deeds, and to guard ourselves from false knowledge.

1 Timothy 1:3-9 | Self-Appointed Experts on Life (The Message)

³⁻⁴ On my way to the province of Macedonia, I advised you to stay in Ephesus. Well, I haven't changed my mind. Stay right there on top of things so that the teaching stays on track. Apparently some people have been introducing fantasy stories and fanciful family trees that digress into silliness instead of pulling the people back into the center, deepening faith and obedience.

⁵⁻⁷ The whole point of what we're urging is simply *love*—love uncontaminated by self-interest and counterfeit faith, a life open to God. Those who fail to keep to this point soon wander off into dead ends of gossip. They set themselves up as experts on religious issues, but haven't the remotest idea of what they're holding forth with such imposing eloquence.

⁸⁻⁹ It's true that moral guidance and counsel need to be given, but the way you say it and to whom you say it are as important as what you say. It's obvious, isn't it, that the law code isn't primarily for people who live responsibly, but for the irresponsible, who defy all authority, riding roughshod over God, life, sex, truth, whatever!

1 Timothy 1:15-16 NIV | ¹⁵ Here is a trustworthy saying that deserves full acceptance: Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners—of whom I am the worst. ¹⁶ But for that very reason I was shown mercy so that in me, the worst of sinners, Christ Jesus might display his immense patience as an example for those who would believe in him and receive eternal life.