

Sermon Discussion Questions: 1 Timothy 1



1 Timothy 1:1-2

1. How would you describe the state of the church in America today? How is it similar to and different from the church of Ephesus and the challenges it faced?
2. Paul's intent in writing Timothy is so that he "may know how one ought to behave in the household of God, which is the church of the living God, a pillar and buttress of the truth" (3:15). What part of this statement most resonates with you as we start this series in 1 Timothy? Why?
3. In what ways would you like to see our church grow in this upcoming year? How can you and your community group be a part of this growth?
4. Paul greeted Timothy with "grace, mercy, and peace from God" (1:2). In what ways would you like to see and experience God's grace, mercy, or peace in your life right now?

1 Timothy 1:3-7

1. What are some “different doctrines” (v. 3) currently being taught that we need to watch out for? How might you be tempted to believe them?
2. False teachers desired to understand and teach the law apart from the gospel (v 6-7). How might this happen in our day and age?
3. Paul’s aim in teaching the truth was love. How do you see truth and love working together? Which temptation are you more likely to give in to: speaking but not loving or loving but not speaking? This week, is there a person God wants you to speak the truth in love to or is there someone God wants you to stop speaking to and simply love them?
4. Paul’s aim was love that issued from “a pure heart, good conscience, and sincere faith.” Which of these areas would you like for God to grow you this year?

1 Timothy 1:8-11

1. What role does the law typically play in the typical church today? What about you personally?
2. How is the law good? How might it be used lawfully (v. 8)? How might it be used unlawfully?
3. Because of the glorious gospel, God has redeemed us from all lawlessness. Praise God! Yet, we sometimes are tempted to turn back to our sin & idolatry. Which area of sin (either listed in vv. 9-10 or listed elsewhere in Scripture) do you most struggle with?
4. In what ways might you be tempted to fight against sin with the law rather than the gospel?
5. How might your group pray for you this week to pursue Jesus and holiness rather than your flesh and sin?

1 Timothy 1:12-17

1. Share a portion of your testimony with the group. (Consider setting aside some “testimony time” several weeks in a row, having different people share each week.)
2. Paul shared his testimony in his writings and teachings many times, including in this passage. Why? How might sharing your testimony be a blessing to you, to others, and to God?
3. God appointed Paul for service. In what ways has God appointed you to serve Him? What steps might you take for greater service? How might your group help you?
4. Paul lists several attributes of God in this passage. How have you seen God display these attributes in your life? How would you like for Him to display them to you and others in the coming weeks and months?
5. Paul’s desire was for others to believe in Jesus for eternal life. Who are people you’d like to see come to faith in Jesus? How can you reach out to them? Spend some time as a group praying for both people’s salvation and for your boldness.

1 Timothy 1:18-20

1. Are you a fighter? Why or why not? Feel free to share a personal story to illustrate your answer!
2. Paul commends Timothy to “wage the good warfare” (“fight the good fight”). What good things should believers fight for?
3. How we fight is just as important as what we fight for. What does Paul mean when he says to “wage the good warfare, holding faith and a good conscience”?
4. What do you sense God is calling you to fight for right now in your life and relationships? How can you display the character of Christ in this fight?
5. Who are you concerned about that may shipwreck their faith? How can you pray for and pursue them?