

Sermon Discussion Questions: 1 Timothy 4-5



1 Timothy 4:1-5

1. When you see people “depart from the faith,” how does this impact you and your faith?
2. The Spirit says that people will fall away from the Lord. How might this prophecy encourage, discourage, or even trouble you?
3. Just as the Spirit of God guides us into truth, so deceitful and demonic spirits are the source of false teaching. Thus, our battle is not against flesh and blood, but against rulers, authorities, cosmic powers, and spiritual forces of evil (Eph 6:12). To what extent do you see the fight for truth as a spiritual battle? How are you engaged in this spiritual battle to ensure the truth reigns in your heart and the hearts of those you love?
4. The particular type of false teaching drawing people away from the Lord was asceticism/ legalism. In what way(s) might you be tempted to pursue legalism? How might you apply the truths of the gospel (see verses 4-5) to fight against this temptation?
5. Who is a person you are concerned is departing from the faith? How might you and your group pray for and pursue him/her?

1 Timothy 4:6-10

1. The best way to discern error is to know the truth. How have you seen this play out in your life? Any particular story to share?
2. To keep the church from error, one of the primary tasks of an elder is to teach the truth. How have you seen your elders fulfill this call? How might you pray for and encourage your elders in this endeavor?
3. We are called to train ourselves for godliness. What priority does this type of training have in your life right now? What step(s) might you take to grow in your training and in your godliness?
4. How does setting our hope on the living God help us persevere in this life? Where does your hope currently lie?
5. How might your group pray for your growth in hope and in godliness?

1 Timothy 4:11-16

1. "Do as I say, not as I do." Any story that quote conjures up?
2. Church leaders must keep a careful watch on themselves and on the teaching, so that they will save themselves and their hearers (verse 16). How have you seen this play out? How might you pray for your leaders in this endeavor?
3. As believers (and particularly as leaders), our character and convictions should match up. Which particular characteristic listed in verse 12 would you like to better match up with your convictions?
4. We should not neglect the gifts we have but use them to serve the church. What are your gifts? How can you better use them to serve others?
5. Spend some time praying for our church and particularly our church leaders—that we would love Jesus and His Word and grow in godly character and conviction.

1 Timothy 5:1-16

1. Paul calls the church “the household of God” (3:15), or the family of God. In what ways have you seen the church be like a family?
2. We are called to treat one another as spiritual fathers, mothers, brothers, and sisters (5:1-2). To what extent have you pursued relationships at Four Oaks like you would a family? What steps might you take to prioritize these family relationships more?
3. Paul gives specific instructions to Timothy about caring for widows in the church. Which instructions particularly stand out to you and why?
4. All of God’s commands reveal His heart. What do God’s commands about caring for widows reveal about His heart?
5. How might you grow in caring for widows (and single moms)? If you’re a widow or single mom, how might you grow in the characteristics laid out in this passage?

1 Timothy 5:17-25

1. Talk about a church leader (past or present) who has ruled well. Is there a particular story that captures your admiration of him?
2. The church is called to publicly honor elders who rule well. In what ways have you sought to honor your elders? How might you grow in this regard?
3. The church is to publicly rebuke any elder who continues in sin. Why do you think this is important? If possible, share an experience of when you’ve seen this public discipline done well or poorly.
4. Sometimes it is difficult to discern a person’s heart (see verses 24-25). How can Paul’s instructions to Timothy in this passage help you wisely serve leaders and other people in your life?
5. How might others hold you accountable so that you don’t persist in sin but keep yourself pure? Share any particular ways your group can pray for you.