

True love protects and confronts

1 Timothy 1:1-11

¹ Paul, an apostle of Christ Jesus by the command of God our Savior and of Christ Jesus our hope,

² To Timothy my true son in the faith:

Grace, mercy and peace from God the Father and Christ Jesus our Lord.

³ As I urged you when I went into Macedonia, stay there in Ephesus so that you may command certain people not to teach false doctrines any longer ⁴ or to devote themselves to myths and endless genealogies. Such things promote controversial speculations rather than advancing God's work—which is by faith. ⁵ The goal of this command is love, which comes from a pure heart and a good conscience and a sincere faith. ⁶ Some have departed from these and have turned to meaningless talk. ⁷ They want to be teachers of the law, but they do not know what they are talking about or what they so confidently affirm.

⁸ We know that the law is good if one uses it properly. ⁹ 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, ¹⁰ 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 ¹¹ that conforms to the gospel concerning the glory of the blessed God, which he entrusted to me.

1) An establishment of credentials

- Paul starts off his letter to Timothy in his usual way of establishing his credentials
- He is an apostle of Jesus Christ, which means that he was chosen, commissioned, and sent by Jesus to preach the kingdom of God to the nations. For Paul he was specifically sent as an apostle to the Gentiles.
- He did what he did by the command of God our Saviour and Christ Jesus our hope.
 - His work wasn't of his own accord. Neither was it a request of God.
 - It was a command of God
 - Whatever we do we do under the Lordship of God and need to be obedient to whatever he commands us to do.
- Paul probably led Timothy to faith in Christ as he regards Timothy as a true son in the faith.
 - He knew Timothy and could entrust him with the commission of pastoring the church in Ephesus.
 - This demonstrates the order of authority in the church, but being relational and not authoritarian.
 - By calling Timothy a true son in the faith he probably meant that Timothy carried out the character, requirements, and obedience of the faith with diligence.
 - Before someone can be entrusted with doing something they need to show that they can be trusted with that responsibility.
- Paul ends off giving his credentials by imparting a blessing of grace, mercy, and peace from God the Father and Jesus our Lord.
 - This is also a normal trait of his writings.

2) Controversy in the church

- Many times we hear Christians talk about becoming like the early church. That means the church at the time of the apostles and for the first one or two hundred years after that.
 - The fact is that the early church was as full as problems as the present-day church.
 - The church at Corinth was full of factions and other problems.
 - The church in Galatia had the believers going back to the law
 - The church in Laodicea was lukewarm.
- The reason that Paul left Timothy was oppose those who were teaching false doctrines in the church.
- False doctrines are doctrines that aren't in line with the Word of God, or twisting the Bible to say what you want it to say.
 - One of the ways to recognize a false doctrine is that it is man centered and not God centered.
 - True doctrine always has the glory of God and the submission of man to Him as its focus or end point.

- Besides twisting the scriptures to suit themselves they taught myths or fables.
 - Myths and fables are works of fiction.
 - To teach them as fact and applicable to our lives
 - These stories probably came from the Apocrypha, which were books that weren't included in the Bible.
 - An example of these stories is Bel and the Dragon.
 - In "Bel," Daniel challenged the divinity of the idol Bel, which was reputed to eat and drink. By scattering ashes on the temple floor, he revealed the footprints of the priests who secretly removed the sacrifices placed before the idol. As a result the Persian king, Cyrus, destroyed the idol and killed the priests. In "The Dragon," Daniel caused the death of a dragon worshiped by the Babylonians, by feeding it a mixture of pitch, fat, and hair.
 - Being non-Biblical stories, they merely caused controversy and division in the church
 - Seemingly profound knowledge of unknown things is a trait of false teachers.
- Another thing that they did was speak about genealogies.
 - A genealogy is a record of a person or nations ancestry.
 - There are a few reasons why false teachers were focusing on genealogies:
 - They could have been Judaizers – an unhealthy focus on going back to the Jewish law – and so caused division by focusing on the opinion that only the Jews were truly the children of God
 - As at the present time, some could have attempted to trace their own ancestry back to Abraham or Moses or David, or one of the other great men of the past, so elevating themselves to positions above others.
 - Self-elevation is a common trait of false teachers.

3) Love from a pure heart

- 1 Timothy 1:5-7 The goal of this command is love, which comes from a pure heart and a good conscience and a sincere faith. ⁶ Some have departed from these and have turned to meaningless talk. ⁷ They want to be teachers of the law, but they do not know what they are talking about or what they so confidently affirm.
- Sometimes we can be so confrontational on truth that we forget that the end goal of confrontation is love.
 - False teaching results in controversy and broken relationships.
 - Confrontation of false teaching results in truth and restoration of relationships.
 - Love shouldn't be superficial, but genuine.
- Some teachers have never studied the scriptures and give their own interpretations of what they mean, causing confusion in the church.
 - James 3:1 Not many of you should become teachers, my fellow believers, because you know that we who teach will be judged more strictly.
 - Knowing this confronting false teachers is an act of love keeping them from such judgment.
 - It's also an act of love towards the church keeping them from going astray and to possible destruction.

4) The truth of the matter

- 1 Timothy 1:8-11 We know that the law is good if one uses it properly. ⁹ 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, ¹⁰ 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 ¹¹ that conforms to the gospel concerning the glory of the blessed God, which he entrusted to me.
- The truth is that the law is to subdue wickedness and keep a sense of order in this ungodly world.
- It's not for the righteous, but we also know that there are none righteous outside of Christ.
- In other words, a teacher of truth will point to righteousness in Christ and not our self-righteousness.
 - The righteousness that leads to a sincere and pure love for God and others.
 - The Gospel is transformational and thus we don't live under the law as the law is then written on our hearts and we live lives pleasing to God.