

## **Defend the Faith**

### **1 Timothy 1:3-11**

**Introduction:** Paul's overriding purpose was to equip and challenge Timothy to establish a healthy church. The primary role of the church is to hold up the Word of God and defend its truth to the world. There are four ways that Paul gives to equip the church to defend the faith:

#### **I. Confront False Teachers 1:3-7**

False teachers are not to be appeased and their teaching must be exposed. Note six characteristics of false teachers that Paul addressed in Ephesus.

##### **1. They infiltrate the church from the inside**

##### **2. They teach false doctrine 1:3; Titus 1:11**

Timothy wasn't to dialogue with them or debate them but to confront them and command them to stop teaching false doctrine.

##### **3. Their teaching hinders the effective spreading of the gospel 1:4**

"rather than the stewardship from God that is by faith." That phrase describes the role of the church in administering the truth of God that salvation and sanctification (spiritual growth) come by faith.

##### **4. They fail to produce spiritual fruit 1:5-6**

Spiritual fruit begins with "love (Galatians 5:22)" – love for God and for others. And it is the demonstration of biblical, Spirit-filled love that proves to the world the genuineness of our faith (John 13:35).

This love is the work of God in the heart of a person that is marked three ways:

- 1) "pure heart" – this is a heart cleansed through the Holy Spirit's work of regeneration and committed to obedience (Titus 3:5; Rom 16:17).
- 2) "good conscience" – a conscience that functions as God intended. It accuses us when we do wrong and approves when we do right. It is tied to the standard of God's Word.
- 3) "a sincere faith" – ANHUPODRITOS = without hypocrisy. It is a faith that is real and lives up to its claims.

##### **5. They seek the applause of man 1:7**

##### **6. They misinterpret the law 1:8; Rom 3:19-20**

They misused the law by teaching that it was used to identify the just or the righteous as if the law was the MEANS for salvation.

#### **II. Confirm the true purpose of the law 1:9-11**

Note three purposes for the moral law of God:

##### **1. To restrain sin in the world**

The law provides a standard for morality in the world

## 2. To condemn sinners Gal 2:16

False teachers don't talk about sin because that offends people and limits their crowd.

## 3. To sanctify Christians 1:10-11; Titus 2:11-14

The Greek word HUGIANOW means healthy ("hygiene") and wholesome. Sound doctrine is biblical teaching that results in Christians who are spiritually healthy. Saving faith results in a transformed life.

**APPLICATION:** Any church is within one generation of falling away from the faith. That is why we must be alert to false teachers. There are four questions to ask in evaluating false teachers:

- 1) Is their teaching consistent with the Bible? Do they in any way add or take away from the Bible? 2 Timothy 2:15
- 2) Is their purpose to honor and glorify God or to prompt people to pursue wealth, happiness and self-love?
- 3) Do they seek prominence or demonstrate humility and selflessness?
- 4) Does their teaching bring confusion instead of clarity to the truth of the gospel? Do they proclaim a gospel of good works or the gospel of grace?

## Study Questions for 1 Timothy 1:3-11

1. What can we learn from Paul's tone and challenges to Timothy in our own experiences of mentoring and discipling others?
2. Note in 1:3 that Paul urges Timothy to REMAIN in Ephesus. What does that suggest about Timothy's ministry there? What circumstances cause people to want to leave the church? What are the benefits of remaining?
3. Read Revelation 2:1-3. How did Christ commend the church in Ephesus? Why are those qualities important today?
4. These false teachers were from WITHIN the church and needed to be confronted. Share experiences where you were exposed and influenced by false teachers or were disappointed with a pastor or church leader whom you trusted but later discovered that he was unfaithful.
5. These false teachers were using the law to pervert the gospel. What kinds of rules or regulations do some preachers use to add to the gospel? Why is it so dangerous?
6. What is the correct use of the law according to 1:8? Compare Romans 3:20-22? Why is it important to expose the sinfulness of man before giving the gospel?