

1 Timothy

Week 1 - Chapter 1

Pray for your time together in God's Word!

? Can you think of a time when you received an important charge or command? What did it require of you?

1 Timothy 1:1-14 (NIV)

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

²To Timothy my true son in the faith: Grace, mercy and peace from God the Father and Christ Jesus our Lord.

³As 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 ⁴or to devote themselves to myths and endless genealogies. Such things promote controversial speculations rather than advancing God's work—which is by faith. ⁵The goal of this command is love, which comes from a pure heart and a good conscience and a sincere faith. ⁶Some have departed from these and have turned to meaningless talk. ⁷They want to be teachers of the law, but they do not know what they are talking about or what they so confidently affirm.

⁸We know that the law is good if one uses it properly. ⁹We 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, ¹⁰for the sexually immoral, for those practicing homosexuality, for slave traders and liars and perjurers—and for whatever else is contrary to the sound doctrine ¹¹that conforms to the gospel concerning the glory of the blessed God, which he entrusted to me.

¹²I thank Christ Jesus our Lord, who has given me strength, that he considered me trustworthy, appointing me to his service. ¹³Even though I was once a blasphemer and a persecutor and a violent man, I was shown mercy because I acted in ignorance and unbelief. ¹⁴The grace of our Lord was poured out on me abundantly, along with the faith and love that are in Christ Jesus.

? In verse four Paul states that some of the Christians in Ephesus were devoting themselves to “myths and endless genealogies” which result in “controversial speculations.” What are some things that people devote themselves to today that can distract them from their relationship with God?

Possible Answers: Knowledge about God rather than knowledge of God, debates that distract from the core of the gospel, proving other people wrong.

? In verse five Paul tells Timothy that the reason Timothy should command these people to not teach false doctrines is Love. How might Timothy's correcting of the false teachers demonstrate love?

Possible Answers: Protects people from hearing lies, promotes the telling of gospel truth which is people's ultimate hope, gives opportunity for people preaching false doctrines to return to the truth of the gospel, shows Timothy wants what is best for the body of believers.

? What are some things that we have to do today that, while confrontational or harsh, show love?

Possible Answers: Accountability to one another, being willing to confront someone in love about sin, advocating for Biblical truth

? In verse five Paul tells Timothy that Love comes from “a pure heart and a good conscience and a sincere faith.” Paul does not say how these three things bring about love – only that they do. Think for a moment about a pure heart, a good conscience and a sincere faith. How might these three things bring forth love?

Possible Answers: a pure heart holds to truth and desires what is best for others, sincere faith is a reflection of Christ's heart

1 Timothy 1:15-17 (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. ¹⁷ Now to the King eternal, immortal, invisible, the only God, be honor and glory for ever and ever. Amen.

? In verse 15 Paul states that “Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners—of whom I am the worst.” If you were to think of who might be the worst person who ever lived, who would it be and why?

Possible Answers: Answers may vary depending on groups

? Looking back at verse 13 how do the actions that Paul lists there support his claim to have been the worst sinner ever?

Possible Answers: Paul blasphemed (spoke irreverently about God or the things of God), he persecuted other believers, was violent

? In verse 16 Paul says that he was shown mercy “as an example for those who would believe in him and receive eternal life.” How does the mercy that God showed to Paul serve as an example of what God can do for us today?

Possible Answers: God's mercy is the same for us as it was for Paul, there is no merit system for God's mercy, there is no sin too great for God's redemption

? Why are we tempted to not believe this is true for us today?

Possible Answers: We can view our sin with a “works-based mentality” where we try to measure ourselves or work to earn God’s mercy, we believe the lie that God’s mercy can’t or won’t extend to a certain area of our life

? In verse 17 Paul responds to the work that God did in his life with praise. What has God done in your life that could motivate you to praise him?

Possible Answers: Answers will vary depending on individual group members

? Is there an area of your life you need to start believing God’s mercy for?

1 Timothy 1:18-20 (NIV)

¹⁸Timothy, my son, I am giving you this command in keeping with the prophecies once made about you, so that by recalling them you may fight the battle well, ¹⁹holding on to faith and a good conscience, which some have rejected and so have suffered shipwreck with regard to the faith. ²⁰Among them are Hymenaeus and Alexander, whom I have handed over to Satan to be taught not to blaspheme.

? Paul charges Timothy to “fight the battle well, holding on to faith and a good conscience.” What can it look like practically to hold on to faith?

Possible Answers: Actively renewing our mind with truth (reading the Word, prayer, spending time in community), speaking truth against lies (preaching the gospel to ourselves), remaining active in and accountable to Biblical community

For Discussion & Accountability

? What are specific ways we can help each other to hold on to faith and to fight the battle well?

Possible Answers: Community accountability, preaching the gospel to each other, knowing each other's battles so we can support one another in them, confessing sin, forgiving and extending grace to spur one another on

? What is our community application of this passage?