

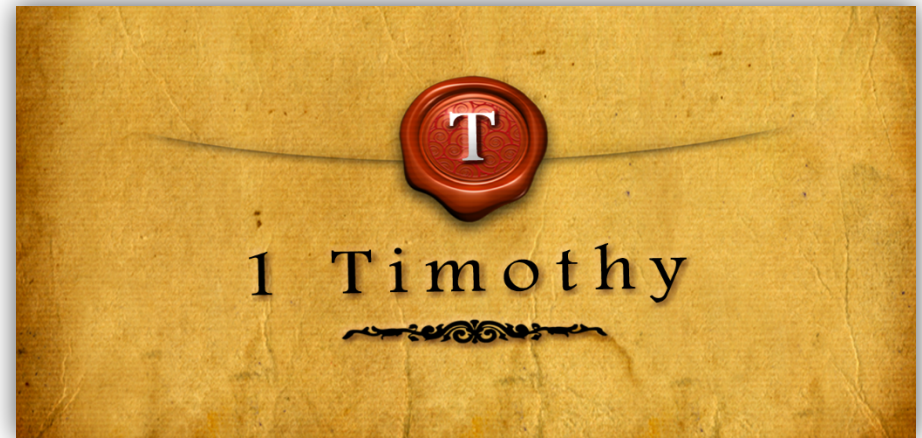
PERSONAL APPLICATION

- In what ways can you help to advance God's work this week?
- What steps can you take to grow/demonstrate your trust in God?
- What are some ways to make love a higher priority in your life this week? (and we aren't talking about romance, although that may be a priority for you!)
- Is there anything you need to repent of, ask forgiveness for, stop doing, or just make right in order to have a pure heart, clear conscience, and sincere faith?

PRAYER

- Let God know that you want to help advance His work this week.
- Ask God to fill your heart with love and to help you to keep His commandment, that we love Him with all of our heart, soul, mind and strength, and to love others like He loved us.
- Ask God to cleanse your heart, clear your conscience, give you sincere faith.

NOTES



1 TIMOTHY 1:4-7 - LOVE AND THE LAW

CONNECT

- How did your parents mete out correction in your home?
- Growing up, how did you generally respond when your parent's had to correct or discipline you? Were you a child who was 'easy' to parent or a 'holy terror'?
- Have you ever had to correct or discipline someone else? How would you evaluate your performance?

WHAT

The world is full of religion and religions. Although people look to religion for answers, oftentimes religion has been more destructive than helpful. Religious conflicts have caused wars, ended friendships, and split families. In the passage of scripture we are about to read, Paul is urging Timothy to bring correction to 'certain people' in Ephesus. In it he addresses the things that turn our pursuit of God into something harmful rather than helpful. He also shares with us the fundamental principles of a healthy relationship with God. Our prayer is that this discussion will help to equip you for a fruitful and blessed life with God.

WORD

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."

1 Timothy 1:3–7

1. Faith.

"...Such things promote controversial speculations rather than advancing God's work—which is by faith." 1 Timothy 1:3

Paul says that we are to advance God's work by faith. Faith is simply defined as trusting God's word and character. When our faith in God is strong, it will lead us to seek God's advice and obey his instructions. It's similar to the trust we put in a doctor for medical advice or a banker for financial advice. The more we trust them, the more apt we are to seek out their advice and follow their instructions. How would you describe the level of your trust in God, sky high? growing? shaky? on life support? Is the level of your trust helping or hindering God's work?

2. Love

"The goal of this command is love which comes from a pure heart and a good conscience and a sincere faith." 1 Timothy 1:5

Love. It was the goal of Paul's instructions to Timothy to stay in Ephesus and confront those teaching false doctrines. Time and again scripture teaches us that love is the motivation behind all that God does in our lives and should be the motivation behind all that we do. What was more important to you than love this past week: The desire to be 'on top'? To be right? In control? Look good? What else?

3. Love without Law = Meaningless Talk

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." 1 Timothy 1:6–7

When our conscience is clouded, our hearts are impure, or our faith is phony, we veer away from love and turn toward meaningless talk and discussion of the rules. Conversations that lead to love flow from a clear conscience, a pure heart, and sincere faith. Which of these do you feel is most lacking in Christians? When you think back over your interactions with other Christians, would you say they produced more love or more empty speculation, controversy, and meaningless talk? What are some ways to make our interactions more love-producing or love-focused?
