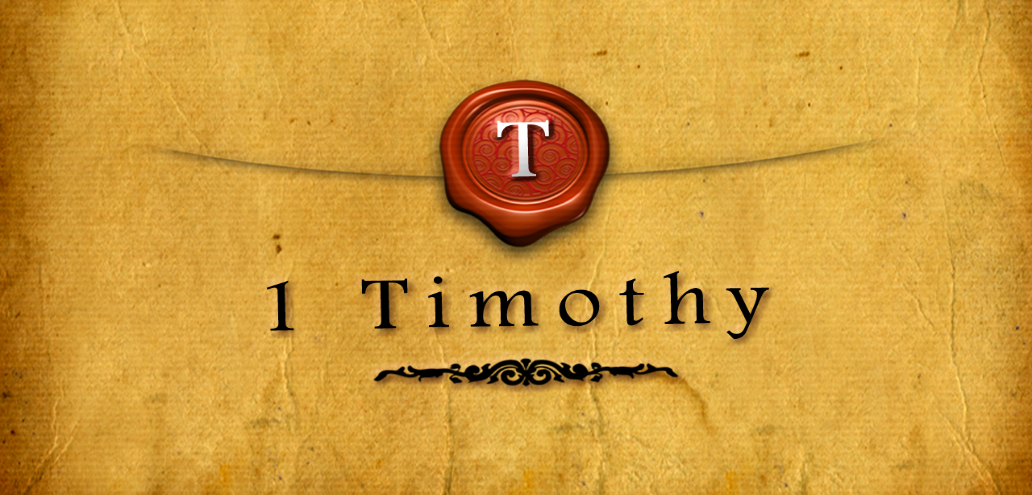
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**PERSONAL APPLICATION**

* Who do you know that needs to know God loves them? How can you share the love of God with them this week?
* Who can you tell this week about Jesus, the one mediator between God and man?
* Do you know someone who needs to be reconciled to God? What can you do to help mend that rift?

**PRAYER**

* Who are you thankful for? Pray prayers of thanksgiving for those people. List them by name and pray for them one at a time.
* Who do you know that needs God’s help? Ask God to help that person.
* Take a few moments and make a list of all the people in authority that you can think of. Now take some time to pray through this list. Commit to praying for your leaders regularly.

**NOTES**



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**1 TIMOTHY 2:1-6 – Jesus, The Only Way**

**CONNECT**

* Have you ever had to go to a mediator in a dispute? What role did the mediator play?
* How would you describe the way you make friends? Are you everybody’s buddy? Do you have just a few close friends? Do you make friends quickly? Does it take a while to get to know you?

**WHAT**

Many people believe that all religions are the same and all lead to the same god and the same heaven. This is a nice notion and something most of us wish was true on some level. However, just liking a thought and wishing it were true, doesn’t make it true, otherwise cake and ice cream would be full of vitamins and not make us fat! When I get lost while driving, simply desiring to get to my destination is not enough to make the road I am on be the right road. Today we want to look at how God can love everyone, yet everyone will not be reconciled to Him.

*“I urge, then, first of all, that petitions, prayers, intercession and thanksgiving be made for all people—****2****for kings and all those in authority, that we may live peaceful and quiet lives in all godliness and holiness.****3****This is good, and pleases God our Savior,****4****who wants all people to be saved and to come to a knowledge of the truth.****5****For there is one God and one mediator between God and mankind, the man Christ Jesus,****6****who gave himself as a ransom for all people. This has now been witnessed to at the proper time.*

***1 Timothy 2:1-6, (NIV)***

WORD

1. **God’s Desire**

*“****3****This is good, and pleases God our Savior,****4****who wants all people to be saved and to come to a knowledge of the truth.”*  1 Timothy 2:3-4 (NIV)

God’s desire is for ‘all people to be saved and come to a knowledge of the truth.’ Theologians have argued back and forth as to why a God who is all-loving and all-powerful wouldn’t just save everyone, a concept known as ‘universalism’. Universalism is untrue for two reasons: 1) All creation was created to glorify God. Disobedience and unrighteousness (sin) dishonor God and destroy what He has created. They must be abandoned and destroyed in order to restore creation. 2) God’s love for man is universal, however man’s love for God is not. True love requires mutual choosing. Because God always chooses to love man, whenever a love relationship does not exist between someone and God, it is because that person has not chosen to love God back. Describe man’s response to God’s universal love.

1. **God’s Design**

*“****5****For there is one God and one mediator between God and mankind, the man Christ Jesus,****6****who gave himself as a ransom for all people. This has now been witnessed to at the proper time.*” 1 Timothy 2:5-6 (NIV)

Jesus is the perfect mediator between God and man because he is the only one in history who is both God and man. What is the role of a mediator? Why do we need a mediator between us and God and how does Jesus perform this task?

1. **Our Responsibility**

*“****18****All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ and gave us the ministry of reconciliation:****19****that God was reconciling the world to himself in Christ, not counting people’s sins against them. And he has committed to us the message of reconciliation.****20****We are therefore Christ’s ambassadors, as though God were making his appeal through us. We implore you on Christ’s behalf: Be reconciled to God.****21****God made him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.*” 2 Corinthians 5:18-21 (NIV)

Through Jesus, the one mediator between God and man, we have been reconciled to God who has in turn, given us the task of being the messengers of reconciliation to others. In your own words, describe what it means to be reconciled to God. Now describe what it means to be a minister of reconciliation to others.