



# Upholding The Truth

April 9 & 12, 2026

## Ice Breaker

What's one family rule or tradition from your childhood that you still remember clearly today?

## Key Verses

- 1 Timothy 1:1-7
- Ephesians 2:19-20
- 1 Timothy 3:14-19
- 1 Timothy 4:1
- Acts 20:17
- Acts 20:28-30

## Questions

1. Why do you think Paul emphasizes his apostolic authority at the very beginning of this letter to Timothy?
2. What are some examples of false teaching that might distract churches today from God's truth?
3. How does the concept of the church being God's family with family rules change your perspective on church authority and structure?
4. Paul says the goal of proper teaching is love from a pure heart, good conscience, and sincere faith. How do these three elements work together in a believer's life?
5. What's the difference between living by faith in God's power versus living by works or human effort, and why is this distinction so important for church health?
6. How should church leaders balance being loving and gracious while also being firm against false teaching?

7. In what ways might we be tempted to build on a foundation other than Christ and His apostles' teaching?
8. How can we as a church family better support our leaders in protecting and teaching God's truth?

## Life Application

This week, commit to studying one passage from the New Testament that focuses on living by faith rather than your own power. Ask God to show you any areas where you might be trying to be transformed through your own efforts rather than believing in what the Spirit will do for you. Share what you learn with someone in your small group.

## Key Takeaways

1. Local churches must be built on the foundation of God the Father, Jesus Christ, and the apostles' teaching - no other foundation is acceptable
2. False teaching pulls people away from living by faith and prevents them from accomplishing God's family plan
3. The ultimate goal of correct biblical teaching is to produce love from a pure heart, good conscience, and sincere faith
4. Church leaders have the authority and responsibility to confront false teaching and protect God's people
5. The Christian life is always lived by faith in what God can do, not by our own works or efforts

## Ending Prayer

Lord Jesus, thank You for being the cornerstone of our faith and for giving us Your truth through the apostles. Help us to be a church that respects, protects, and teaches Your truth faithfully. Guard us from false teaching and help us to live by faith in what Your Spirit can do in our lives. Make us a loving community that reflects Your character to the world around us. Give our leaders wisdom and courage to uphold Your truth, and help each of us to submit to Your authority with humble hearts. May we grow in love for You and for one another as we build on the foundation You have laid. In Your precious name, Amen.