

## **Doctrine Matters**

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

Why does sound doctrine matter?

- I. Sound doctrine preserves the church
  - A. The problem in the Ephesian church (v. 1-3; Acts 20:29-30)
  - B. The danger for the church today
- II. Sound doctrine produces love
  - A. The result of bad doctrine (v. 4a)
  - B. The result of sound doctrine (v. 4b-5)
- III. Sound doctrine exalts Christ
  - A. Who bad doctrine exalts (v. 6-9a)
  - B. Who sound doctrine exalts (v. 9b-11; Rom. 3:20, 7:7)

#### **Application Guide:**

1. “If Scripture doesn’t define the church, the forces of culture will.” How do you see the forces of culture defining the church today?
2. How have you seen bad, or speculative, doctrine produce division and elitism? How has your love for God and others increased as you have learned more of God’s character?
3. Who is the hero of your story? Who is the hero of your children’s story? How does your doctrine determine the answer to these questions?

## **Worth Fighting For** **1 Timothy 1:12-20**

What is worth fighting for?

- I. Your sinful condition
  - A. Paul, the worst of sinners (v. 12-13, 15b)
  - B. Owning your sin
- II. The grace of Christ
  - A. Christ's overflowing grace (v. 14-15a; Rom. 5:20-21)
  - B. Christ's perfect patience (v. 16; Rom. 3:25)
- III. A good conscience
  - A. The necessity of a good conscience (v. 18-19a)
  - B. The result of rejecting your conscience (v. 19b-20)

### **Application Guide:**

1. Why is it hard to fight for your sinful condition? How do cultural forces make it hard to own the truth that you are not good in and of yourself?
2. Do you believe that Jesus Christ is eager to save you? Why or why not? Do you believe he loves it when you need him? How does your upbringing impact your answers to these questions?
3. How have you seen repeated sin against your conscience damage your spiritual life and affect your doctrine (what you believe)?

**Faithful to the Mission**  
**1 Timothy 2:1-15**

How does the church remain faithful to the gospel mission?

- I. Praying God's desires
  - A. God's desire (v. 3-4; Rom. 11:14; 1 Cor. 9:22)
  - B. God's work (v. 5-7; Rom. 5:1; Heb. 9:27)
  - C. Embracing God's desire (v. 1-2)
- II. Ordering the heart
  - A. "Out of order" lives
  - B. Disordered hearts (v. 8-10; James 1:20; Prov. 31:30)
- III. Following God's design
  - A. The location (v. 12)
  - B. The cultural context (v. 11)
  - C. The reason (v. 13-15)

**Application Guide:**

1. Do your prayers embrace the world? Are your children growing up in a household that embraces the world through prayer?
2. Do you struggle with anger or an unhealthy concern with bodily appearance? How do these struggles reveal disordered loves in your heart?
3. What parts of God's design are hard for you to follow? Why? How do you see God's word and the forces of culture fighting to shape the life of the church?

**The Mystery of Godliness**  
**1 Timothy 3:14-4:5**

What marks the path towards godliness?

- I. The person of Christ
  - A. The mystery of godliness (3:14-16; Rom. 1:4)
  - B. Relationship with Christ (3:15; 2 Cor. 6:16)
- II. The embrace of God's gifts
  - A. The evil side of denial (4:1-3a)
  - B. Embracing created good (4:3b-5; Heb. 13:4; Mark 7:18-19)

**Application Guide:**

1. How would you describe your relationship with Jesus? Is there a relationship to someone or something other than Jesus that seems to be controlling your life?
2. How have you set your hopes on the denial of fleshly desires, rather than Christ, for salvation and godliness? Why do you think people are drawn to this evil side of denial?
3. What characterizes a community marked by denial of God's created good? What characterizes a community marked by the embrace and enjoyment of God's created good?

**The Path to Godliness**  
**1 Timothy 4:6-16**

What marks the path to godliness?

- I. Right content
  - A. Consuming junk food (v. 7a)
  - B. Consuming God's word (v. 6, 13)
- II. Right discipline
  - A. The need for training (v. 7b-8a)
  - B. The practicals of training (v. 15-16)
- III. Right motivation
  - A. The enjoyment of discipline (v. 10)
  - B. The eternal perspective of discipline (v. 8b-9)

**Application Guide:**

1. What kind of unhealthy content do you regularly consume? Where does God's word fall in your content consumption?
2. What kind of healthy disciplines do you have for reading and engaging God's word? What disciplines do you need to develop?
3. Why is it so important to have the correct motivation for spiritual disciplines?

**The Family of God**  
**1 Timothy 5:1-16**

How does the church live as the family of God?

- I. The church relates well as the family of God
  - A. The need for rebuke (v. 1a)
  - B. The “how” of rebuke (v. 1-2)
- II. The church cares well as the family of God
  - A. God’s care for widows (v. 3; Ex. 22:22-23; Deut. 10:18; James 1:27)
  - B. The church’s care for widows (v. 4-8)
- III. The church serves well as the family of God
  - A. The service of widows (v. 9-15)
  - B. The call to serve

**Application Guide:**

1. When you confront, exhort, or rebuke someone in your immediate family or in the family of God, what is your motivation? How does your motivation affect the tone of your rebuke?
2. What opportunities do you have to care for the widow, orphan, and alien? What makes it hard for you to engage in this kind of ministry?
3. Why do you think serving brings healing? How does the gospel of Jesus Christ provide the answer to this question?