

## **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?