

## **Title: Keeping The House Clean**

### **Text: 1 Timothy 1:3-7**

Is it easy to keep your house clean? Feels like an eternal mission to maintain any level of cleanliness. You don't clean only once. You clean constantly. Sometimes we even do the famous spring cleaning where we just take a giant trash bag or several bags and throw everything out.

Well, Paul is reminding Timothy that he was left in Ephesus to keep the house clean. Paul came in, cleaned the house out, but now Timothy had to maintain the house clean from false teachers and wrong doctrine.

#### **I. The Charge - Defend The Doctrine v3-4**

- A. Ephesus had a problem, individuals and groups had risen up teaching false doctrine, deviating from the Gospel, and promoting wrong ideas.
- B. Timothy's primary job was to correct the doctrine and ensure only the true Gospel was taught, and everything that comes with that.
- C. The language Paul uses is one of strong encouragement that Timothy stay there and do the work. This shows that he likely wanted to quit and run away. Which, if you work in ministry, you are going to experience at some point. I tried quitting three times, but my resignation letters were declined.
- D. The pressures of ministry are unique, and are both internal and external. In a war, killing an officer is more useful than killing a private. So in spiritual warfare, to step into deeper ministry is putting a bigger target on your back. But someone has to do it, someone has to respond "here I am Lord, send me".
- E. Paul knew this first hand, and he strongly encouraged Timothy to stick it out, and then told him to command, which is military language like a commanding officer, the church to teach no other doctrine than what Paul had established.
- F. Paul's concern wasn't that Timothy's doctrine would be corrupted, but that He would allow others to teach false doctrine and not confront or correct them.
- G. He was not to waste time on myths and genealogies, something that a lot of people like doing. We spend more time on speculations and debating over minor or uncertain things than focusing on the Gospel and teaching God's Word clearly and how He wants.

- i. These false teachers and confused believers would spend hours on minor issues, arguing over secondary things. They spend their time on conspiracy theories, on genealogical meanings, on myths and fables, and other issues that add nothing to spiritual maturity.
  - ii. People can get fascinated by hobby horses. And over emphasizing anything is wrong. An example is people who get a lot into Bible Prophecy. Is prophecy important? Yes. Should we be dogmatic about our specific prophetic belief? No. Why? Because it hasn't happened! We don't know for sure. Yet people can get so into Bible prophecy, they neglect everything else. In fact, being a bit too obsessed with prophecy can often be a sign that you actually don't have a strong relationship with God.
  - iii. Because you don't know Him or aren't growing in knowing Him, you get more attached to information and speculation to seem spiritual. And this is true for many things. There are really smart people that have a lot of information. But information and knowledge does not equal maturity. An easy way to know the difference is what does it produce in the end?
  - iv. These people ultimately produce fights and divisions, not edification or maturity in faith.
- H. If you're in a Bible study and they are constantly getting into debates, fights and disagreements, that is a sign that they are of these people Timothy needed to silence and command. It is a sign that they are these people who don't produce anything good. The wording indicates that they used the old testament law, and in particular the genealogies, to promote ideas and doctrines they wanted, but that produced no real fruit.
- I. So listen, there's a lot of people like this in Puerto Rico. I hear about it all the time. So you need to have the guts and ask for the discernment to realize if you are with these people, and take action. Because they are false teachers, even if they really do know Jesus. They don't understand the Bible or the law. But that doesn't mean you have to be part of them, because Paul tells us exactly what godly Bible teaching should be like.

## II. **The Goal - Teaching that Produces Love v5**

- A. Godly Bible teaching, that comes from a pure heart, a good conscience and sincere faith, should produce love. A love for God and for His people.
- B. **1 Corinthians 8:1 - "Now concerning things offered to idols: We know that we all have knowledge. Knowledge puffs up, but love edifies."**

C. **1 Corinthians 13:1-3 - “Though I speak with the tongues of men and of angels, but have not love, I have become sounding brass or a clanging cymbal. 2 And though I have the gift of prophecy, and understand all mysteries and all knowledge, and though I have all faith, so that I could remove mountains, but have not love, I am nothing. 3 And though I bestow all my goods to feed the poor, and though I give my body to be burned, but have not love, it profits me nothing.”**

- D. Godly, true Bible teaching should produce not disputes and strife about the Law, but love towards God and people. It should produce maturity.
- E. Bible teaching and study is not ultimately to produce information and knowledge, but to help you know Jesus better and mature as a believer, who grows in love.
- F. If our Bible teaching isn't growing us in knowing God and growing further in love with Him and His people, then we are not truly teaching His Word.
- G. This love comes from what? A good conscience and sincere faith. It doesn't produce condemnation, though it may produce conviction. It doesn't beat you with bat, but invites you to believe the fullness of the work of Jesus. It brings transformation of the heart because of love. The conviction comes from wanting to live in a way that honors Jesus, and so you change how you live because you realize the way you lived didn't reflect love for Him.
- H. And that springs forth from the reality that He loves you.

- i. **1 John 4:17-29 - “Love has been perfected among us in this: that we may have boldness in the day of judgment; because as He is, so are we in this world. 18 There is no fear in love; but perfect love casts out fear, because fear involves torment. But he who fears has not been made perfect in love. 19 We love Him because He first loved us.”**

I. **David Guzik - “If spending time in God's word does not produce love from a pure heart, a good conscience, or sincere faith in us, something is wrong. Legalism may make us twist God's word, so that instead of showing love we are harsh and judgmental; instead of having a good conscience we always feel condemned knowing we don't measure up; and instead of sincere faith we practically trust in our own ability to please God.”**

- J. Godly Bible teaching will produce in you more love, more faith, and a clear conscience because you understand Jesus has completely forgiven you, He has given you His life and come to live in you, and Has transformed you with a new identity and inheritance.

- K. Godly Bible teaching does not heap on you condemnation, that is what the false teachers do, which Paul now describes.

### III. **The Adversaries - False Teachers & Legalist v6-7**

- A. These guys want to look smart and spiritual, so they set themselves up as teachers of the Law, but they have no understanding of it. What does Paul say of them? THEY HAVE STRAYED. They are nowhere near the truth. They are lost and refuse to admit it, and are leading others to get lost with them!
- B. And they turn aside to idle talk. That means fruitless or empty talk. They can talk all day and say nothing that helps you know Jesus better. These can be topics about lost tribes and genealogies. It can be about prophecies and end times when taken to an extreme. It can be about angels, and demons, and the seven deadly sins, and mythology, etc etc etc. this is or can be all idle talk!
- C. He describes them as prideful, speaking as if they know what they are doing, but don't know it all. They speak with authority and confidence despite not understanding it. They want to be teachers and leaders. But they don't know anything. But they are so arrogant they refuse to admit it and will attack those who do know the truth, because they want to be right.
- D. Notice that they focus on THE LAW! They'll spend time on telling you how you need to become more sanctified, how you need to do these spiritual disciplines, how you, how you, how you! Who do they focus on? YOU, not Jesus. Some are confused and teach this, others are malicious and teach this. But the basic identifier is that the focus is on your works, not Jesus' finished work.
- E. **2 Timothy 3:6-7 - "For of this sort are those who creep into households and make captives of gullible women loaded down with sins, led away by various lusts, 7 always learning and never able to come to the knowledge of the truth."**
  - i. It's not that men aren't gullible or can be deceived. But they follow the pattern of their master, Satan, who went after Eve so he could get to Adam.
  - ii. You can identify them because they'll focus on condemning you. They talk more about sin than anything else! And when they try to teach you about how to overcome sin, it's all about you putting effort and work, not about letting Jesus work in you and believing His work of forgiveness and the inheritance He offers.

**F. Titus 1:10-11 - "For there are many insubordinate, both idle talkers and deceivers, especially those of the circumcision, 11 whose mouths must be stopped, who subvert whole households, teaching things which they ought not, for the sake of dishonest gain."**

i. What is their goal? Financial gain and their own egos!

G. Sin is big money. Remember the indulgences in the catholic church. You could pay to sin. Sin is a big power. If I can make you feel that you need to come to me, buy my books, receive my prayers, listen to my counsel so you can be freed, I have power over you.

i. **Titus 1:16 - "They profess to know God, but in works they deny Him, being abominable, disobedient, and disqualified for every good work."**

ii. Though they claim to know Jesus, their teaching and works reveals the truth, they deny Him!

H. A true Bible teacher will tell you it's Jesus. You don't need me for anything! I am a mere human. A servant of the house who points you to the master and lord of the house. I can free you. He can. I can't adopt you, but He can. I can't help you become sanctified, but He has sanctified and made righteous once and for all all those who believe on Him. Freedom from sin is found freely in Jesus.

I. They will never tell you that because if you realize it's about a personal relationship with God, their power over you, their cash flow, will evaporate and break apart. It takes guts and faith to preach the truth. Because people may stop giving, people may stop coming, people may go and live crazily because they never knew Jesus or don't understand.

J. But I am not here to Lord over you. I am here to serve you as a servant of God's house. And if you are part of His house, you will agree with what He teaches and says. So we pass on His words, not our own. We point people to Him, not ourselves. We bring people to freedom in His life, not bondage under the law. We bring conviction and love, not condemnation and guilt.

IV. So then, take stock of who you listen to. Reevaluate those you look to for doctrine and teaching. What fruit is produced? Condemnation, disputes, and confusion, or love, edification and relationship? Reject those who waste their time on idle talk.

V. But as for you, focus on Jesus. Get to know Him personally and deeply. Don't look at mere men. Ask Him to teach you and reveal His truth. Lean on Him. He is the source of freedom, and truth and love. Godly Bible teaching points you to Him and Him alone. He is the solution to your problems. In Him is found fullness

of joy, peace, love, acceptance, freedom, righteousness and sanctification. Grow in your love for Him as you understand the depths of His love for you.

## **Communion**

### **Discussion Questions - Keeping the House Clean 1 Timothy 1:3-7**

**1. What does it mean to "keep the house clean" spiritually?**

*Paul left Timothy in Ephesus to protect the church from false teaching. What are some modern examples of things that can "dirty" a church or a believer's walk with Christ?*

**2. Why do you think people are often drawn to speculation, controversies, and secondary issues instead of the central truths of the Gospel?**

*Have you ever seen a church, Bible study, or Christian community become distracted by these kinds of issues?*

**3. Paul commanded Timothy to confront false teaching rather than ignore it.**

*Why is confronting error often difficult? What fears or pressures can keep believers from speaking up when they know something is not biblical?*

**4. According to 1 Timothy 1:5, the goal of biblical teaching is love.**

*How can we evaluate whether our Bible study, sermons, or personal learning are actually producing greater love for God and others?*

**5. The sermon emphasized that information and knowledge do not automatically equal spiritual maturity.**

*What are some signs that a person is growing in knowledge but not necessarily growing in Christlike maturity?*

**6. What is the difference between conviction and condemnation?**

*How have you experienced the Holy Spirit's conviction leading you toward Christ, rather than condemnation driving you away from Him?*

**7. The notes suggest that false teachers often focus primarily on what people must do rather than on what Christ has already done.**

*Why is it so easy to slip into a performance-based relationship with God?*

**8. Jesus and His finished work were presented as the center of healthy Bible teaching.**

*How can we tell whether a sermon, podcast, book, or teacher is pointing us toward Jesus rather than toward themselves, their system, or their agenda?*

**9. Paul warned about teachers whose words produced disputes, division, and confusion.**

*What "fruit" should we look for when evaluating a ministry, teacher, or Bible study group?*

**10. If someone examined the fruit of your spiritual life today, would they see more evidence of love, faith, and freedom in Christ—or more evidence of debate, pride, fear, and performance? Why?**