

1 Timothy 1:1-3 - Welcome To God's House!

1 Timothy 1:1-3 - "Paul, an apostle of Jesus Christ, by the commandment of God our Savior and the Lord Jesus Christ, our hope, 2 To Timothy, a true son in the faith: Grace, mercy, and peace from God our Father and Jesus Christ our Lord. 3 As I urged you when I went into Macedonia—remain in Ephesus that you may charge some that they teach no other doctrine,"

Intro: **Do you let people do whatever you want in your house? Or do you expect some basic ground rules? Do you have any house rules?**

My brother Gabe and sister-in-law Damalis stayed with me a while back and Damalis asked me "is your house a shoes or no shoes house?" because there are people or cultures who don't want you to walk in with shoes, you leave them by the door. Do any of you have any house rules?

Basically, even if we don't say it or admit it, we all have some expectation of how people should act when they come over. You wouldn't let a person come over and just show up with paint and start painting and rearranging your house just because they think it looks better, without asking you.

Yet, when it comes to the church, we don't think the same way very often. We will go church hopping to find the type of church we want. Or we'll want to change the church to suit our needs and wants better. We often don't see the church as a home, but as a place for religious goods and services. The Church isn't a family where we eat family meals together, but a buffet to pick and choose what I want. At least, that's how many view the Church,

But what does God say? How does He see the Church? Does He have any expectations of conduct for those that come inside? Those questions get answered in the three books known as the Pastoral Epistles, 1 & 2 Timothy and Titus. In these books Paul writes to two young Pastors. One pastoring in the metropolitan major city of Ephesus, and one in the Mediterranean island of Crete.

These are written, not to individual localized churches, but to pastors who needed guidance and encouragement on how to run a church, raise up leaders, deal with problems, and teach the congregation. This is why these letters are so important. Because they are speaking to us about how God wants His church to function.

What's interesting is he doesn't talk about the amount of ministries, service times, coffee or no coffee, lighting, type of worship songs or anything that we today deem as important. The majority of the book revolves around worship of God as a lifestyle, and character qualities in the individuals. It's devoted to raising up people who truly

understand the Gospel, and that are able to pass that on to others. It's about worship, discipleship, defending the truth and passing the torch.

So we're going to cover the first three verses in 1 Timothy as an introduction to the first of the pastoral epistles. And the goal is that by the end of studying this or all three, we would understand and see the church not as a place of religious goods and services, but as a home, the house of God, where we meet and live with Him.

1. The Writer v 1

1. Paul planted Ephesus in **Acts 19**. So for three years total he was in Ephesus, through challenges and trials, and built a strong church.
2. He likely returned after his imprisonment and found a mess of false teaching and problems. Despite a strong start, the church had deteriorated in his absence. This is the same church the great letter to the Ephesians was written to, one of the most theological deep letters we have on everything we have in Christ. So Paul cleaned house, and left Timothy to tend to the flock when he had to go to Macedonia.
3. Now part of the issue of these false teachers was that they had an MO, which was they constantly tried to invalidate Paul's calling and leadership. They always attacked his authority. So Paul brings us who hired him for the job. He was called by the commandment of both the Father and the Son.
 1. This is a military word for command. Paul was an enlisted officer by the commander of Heavens armies.
 2. The wording is also a statement that makes Jesus and the Father equals. The deity or humanity of Jesus is another area constantly attacked by false teachers. So saying it in a way that made them equals was important.
4. He likely said this to give credibility to Timothy, so those resisting realize he was placed there by Paul and carried authority as his representative in the work.
5. Paul also wrote this for another reason. He wrote to Timothy to encourage him, knowing he had a hard task ahead of him. Pastoring ain't easy. It's a calling that requires God's enabling. And in a city like Ephesus, it made it even harder.

2. The Recipient v2a

1. Led to Jesus by Paul, and also discipled and equipped.
 1. **2 Tim 1:5-6 NKJV - when I call to remembrance the genuine faith that is in you, which dwelt first in your grandmother Lois and your mother Eunice, and I am persuaded is in you also. 6 Therefore I remind you to stir up the gift of God which is in you through the laying on of my hands.**
2. Mixed Parentage, but faithful and recommended Acts 16:1-5

1. **Acts 16:1-5 NKJV - Then he came to Derbe and Lystra. And behold, a certain disciple was there, named Timothy, the son of a certain Jewish woman who believed, but his father was Greek. 2 He was well spoken of by the brethren who were at Lystra and Iconium. 3 Paul wanted to have him go on with him. And he took him and circumcised him because of the Jews who were in that region, for they all knew that his father was Greek. 4 And as they went through the cities, they delivered to them the decrees to keep, which were determined by the apostles and elders at Jerusalem. 5 So the churches were strengthened in the faith, and increased in number daily.**
2. His mixed parentage meant he was rejected by Jewish society. But Paul's statement of true son meant he was totally accepted. Though you may be rejected by this world, Jesus calls you accepted in the beloved, and welcomes you as a true son, a true daughter.
3. Paul's statement isn't something to be glossed over. It's a powerful reminder that those who trust in Jesus by faith and enter into a personal relationship with Him are made fully children of God
 1. **1 John 3:1-2 NKJV - Behold what manner of love the Father has bestowed on us, that we should be called children of God! Therefore the world does not know us, because it did not know Him. 2 Beloved, now we are children of God; and it has not yet been revealed what we shall be, but we know that when He is revealed, we shall be like Him, for we shall see Him as He is.**
3. Known as faithful to God and sharing Paul's heart for God's people 1 Cor 4:17, Phil 2:20-22
 1. Timothy wasn't just any servant or fellow worker. He was someone Paul could trust and who shared Paul's love and heart for God and God's people.
 2. **1 Corinthians 4:17 For this reason I have sent Timothy to you, who is my beloved and faithful son in the Lord, who will remind you of my ways in Christ, as I teach everywhere in every church.**
 3. **Philippians 2:20-22 - For I have no one like-minded, who will sincerely care for your state. 21 For all seek their own, not the things which are of Christ Jesus. 22 But you know his proven character, that as a son with his father he served with me in the gospel.**
 4. Timothy was discipled by Paul and shared in the mission and vision. Paul knew Timothy would do what was needed and ensure proper teaching and organization took place for God's glory.

4. This is why he felt good leaving Timothy to pastor and care for the Church in Ephesus.
5. But Timothy wasn't a perfect man. He had weaknesses and doubts. We'll see that he got discouraged and was prone to some physical problems.
 1. Paul consistently will remind him of his calling and equipping by the Lord.
 2. Paul will mention some stomach problems and give him some household remedies for it practically.
 3. Paul would remind Timothy which master he served and why he shouldn't quit, even when it's hard.
6. It should be noted Paul includes mercy to his usual greeting to both young pastors. Pastors need extra mercy! The job isn't easy, the demands are many, and the sacrifices are constant.

3. The City v3

1. Ephesus was a hard city, worshipped the Goddess Diana, and was full of idolatry.
 1. Located on the western coast of Asia Minor (modern-day Turkey).
 2. One of the largest and most influential cities in the eastern Roman Empire.
 3. Served as a major harbor city connected to important trade routes by land and sea.
 4. A commercial hub where merchants, travelers, sailors, and government officials regularly passed through.
 5. Wealth from trade made Ephesus prosperous and culturally diverse.
 6. Home to the famous Temple of Artemis (called Diana by the Romans), one of the Seven Wonders of the Ancient World and was their chief deity.
 7. Artemis was associated with fertility, protection, prosperity, and motherhood. Because of this, the sexual conduct of Christians was seen as completely contrary to the culture that was known for sexual immorality, especially in the name of gods of fertility.
 8. Numerous shrines, idols, and images of Artemis were sold throughout the city. Idol-making was a major industry. It is because of this that when the Gospel spread through it caused an uproar, because it was tanking the economy of idolatry. What a wonderful thing if we could impact all of Puerto Rico in such a way that businesses that promote immorality would have to close down because people would be freed in Jesus!
 9. Many residents also practiced emperor worship, honoring Roman emperors as divine figures. And various mystery religions, pagan gods, and local deities were worshiped alongside Artemis.

2. This was the city Timothy had to minister in. A city full of wealth, immorality and idolatry. You add the pressure of the false teachers and difficulties of ministry, and we can understand why he may have wanted to quit! But in these two verses and throughout the book, Paul is going to remind Timothy who is the One who he is serving, who placed him there, and has enabled him with everything he needs.

4. **The Lord of the House v1-2**

1. Not all translations are built equal. I say that because in many they omit Paul calling Jesus Lord twice. But in the Greek, the word Kurios, which means Lord, appears twice. The NKJV does set it up like that. Why is that important? Because the ultimate theme of the book is that the Church belongs to Jesus, it is His house, and He does have an expectation of how we should live in it!
2. **1 Timothy 3:14-15 - "These things I write to you, though I hope to come to you shortly; 15 but if I am delayed, I write so that you may know how you ought to conduct yourself in the house of God, which is the church of the living God, the pillar and ground of the truth."**
3. It is God's house, God's church. We should be looking for and asking Him how He wants things to go. The church doesn't belong to the pastor, nor the congregation. It ultimately isn't up to us how "church" should go. It is up to the one it belongs to. And when a church doesn't want to ask Jesus how it should run, then it won't be a real church for very long.
4. Now here's the thing. We know that in the New Covenant we don't operate under the law anymore. It is not for the believer, which Paul will cover in this book by the way!
5. So how do you balance the Gospel of grace, absolute forgiveness and freedom from the law with the idea of order in the church? When does it become legalism? How do you keep from becoming legalistic?
6. I was praying about this as I was driving out to Dorado for a mini retreat we were doing with some guys. On the way there, the Lord spoke to me and showed me that "It's like a family. Parents teach kids manners and how to be responsible and good". Is it illegal to not have manners? No. But is it good to have manners? Yes. Is it illegal to not be productive? Not really. Is it good to be a productive and helpful member of the family? Absolutely.
7. We need to rethink how we see the Church. It is not a business or a store to gain religious goods and services. It is a house and a family, brought together by the Lord of the house, God Himself. And as His children, we should want to participate and live in a way where our Father is honored. We should want to help our dad with work around the house because we love Him. We should want to help Him grow the family by inviting others to be adopted into it. The motivation to have order and structure in the Church

then comes out of a place of love so that people can encounter the Lord of the House.

8. So we do have organization and structure, and though we do want a certain conduct, it does not come with punishment however. Discipline is different. There might be discipline. We'll talk about that at the end of chapter one. But there is no punishment.
 9. What there is is training. Helping people learn to show worship and honor to the Master of the House, and understand that we live differently out of love for Him, because He adopted us, loved us and gave us a life and family we could never achieve on our own, saving us from slavery and an empty life.
5. So with that all said...Welcome to God's House! Let's go through this book together and really take our time discussing everything it says. Maybe even read ahead, write down questions on certain verses and passages, and as we get to those sections, ask them so we can discuss them.
6. And before we close, I want to do two things:
1. If you haven't become part of the family, I want to give you that opportunity tonight. You're invited to live in God's house, to become a true son or daughter. You may have been rejected by others, but He accepts you as you are. Though He'll teach you how to be part of His family overtime, He wants you to realize coming into it requires nothing but you accepting His invitation. Jesus died to forgive your sins, He rose to offer you His life so you may enter into a personal relationship with the living God. So if that's you, let's take a moment and pray, and I want to do this because the second thing you should not do unless you are part of the family, so if you want to be part of the family, **say this prayer in your own words...**
 2. Secondly, I want to take communion with everyone. Why? Because that's part of being in the family. If you are one of His kids, we do this to remember all the wonderful things our Father has done, and why He is the Lord of the house. So let's celebrate it together by taking it. ***take communion***

Discussion Questions:

1. Why does Paul begin by emphasizing that he is an apostle "by the commandment of God"?
2. Why do you think false teachers often attacked Paul's authority?
3. How can knowing that God has called and equipped us help us when ministry becomes difficult?
4. Have you ever doubted God's calling or purpose for your life? What helped you continue?
5. Why is it significant that Paul repeatedly calls Jesus "Lord"?
6. How does viewing the church as God's house change the way we participate in it?
7. What is the difference between attending church as a consumer and participating as a family member?