

**House Rules**  
***Functioning as the Church***  
Week 02: Sound the Alarm Against False Teachers

**Scripture**

1 Timothy 1:3-11

**Reflection/Review (Where We Are)**

We discovered last week the purposes of Paul writing this letter to Timothy.

Mainly, it would serve as a guidebook to provide instructions for how the church should function.

But one of the first orders of business was confronting the false teachers that had infiltrated the church.

**Motivation (Why They Need to Know It)**

Just because someone calls themselves a church or holds to a belief doesn't mean they are right.

It's important that we learn to use discernment when evaluating whether someone is teaching true or false doctrine.

**1 John 4:1 (NLT)** Dear friends, do not believe everyone who claims to speak by the Spirit. You must test them to see if the spirit they have comes from God. For there are many false prophets in the world. **2** This is how we know if they have the Spirit of God: If a person claiming to be a prophet acknowledges that Jesus Christ came in a real body, that person has the Spirit of God. **3** But if someone claims to be a prophet and does not acknowledge the truth about Jesus, that person is not from God. Such a person has the spirit of the Antichrist, which you heard is coming into the world and indeed is already here.

Part of maturity in faith is discernment.

What is discernment? The ability to judge well.

When is it right to judge? When someone speaks on behalf of God.

## Information (What They Need to Know)

**1 Timothy 1:3 (ESV)** As I [Paul] urged you [Timothy] when I was going to Macedonia, remain at Ephesus so that you may charge [military command – a subordinate obeys an order from his superior] certain persons not to teach any different doctrine,

- Paul had urged Timothy to remain in Ephesus (Was Timothy going to leave the ministry in Ephesus to join Paul? Perhaps.)
- Why did Paul want Timothy to stay? To command leaders in the church to stop teaching different doctrines
  - ✓ *Different* – meaning there are right teachings
  - ✓ *Doctrine* - a set of beliefs
- Every teaching or doctrine is not acceptable. Only those teachings which line up with the Apostles' teaching.

**1 Timothy 1:4 (ESV)** nor to devote themselves to myths and endless genealogies, which promote speculations rather than the stewardship [or good order] from God that is by faith.

- We can't be sure what these myths and genealogies were, but there are some ideas "...[myths were] beliefs as fanciful, untrue, and even deceptive. Such myths were often used to excuse immoral behavior. Genealogies here seems to refer to speculative use of OT accounts of biblical characters or family trees." – ESV Study Bible
- Paul's point is that false teachers were focusing on things of no spiritual value

**1 Timothy 1:5 (ESV)** The aim of our charge [teaching; instruction] is love that issues from a pure heart and a good conscience and a sincere faith.

- Right beliefs (doctrine) should demonstrate itself in **love** from a...
  - ✓ Pure heart – where our passions reside
  - ✓ Good conscience – what we think
  - ✓ Sincere faith – what we believe
- Teachings of no spiritual value were leading to conflict (because there was no standard of truth)

**1 Timothy 1:6 (ESV)** Certain persons, by swerving from these, have wandered away into vain discussion, **7** desiring to be teachers of the law, without understanding either what they are saying or the things about which they make confident assertions.

- The false teachers spent their time in useless arguments (vain discussion)
- The false teachers desired to teach the law, but didn't understand it

**1 Timothy 1:8 (ESV)** Now we know that the law is good, if one uses it lawfully, Paul launches into the proper use of the law, in order to correct the way the false teachers were using it.

“The law is good or useful because it reflects God’s holy will and righteous standard, which accomplishes its purpose in showing sinners their sin and their need for a savior. The law forces people to recognize that they are guilty of disobeying God’s commands, and it thereby condemns every person and sentences them to hell.” – John MacArthur

**1 Timothy 1:9 (ESV)** understanding this, that the law is not laid down for the just but for the lawless and disobedient, for the ungodly and sinners, for the unholy and profane, for those who strike their fathers and mothers, for murderers, **10** the sexually immoral, men who practice homosexuality, enslavers, liars, perjurers, and whatever else is contrary to sound doctrine, **11** in accordance with the gospel of the glory of the blessed God with which I have been entrusted.

- Obedience to the law does not make us righteous. It’s impossible to keep it.
- The law should lead us to be convicted, repent, and beg God for mercy

### Application (What They Need to Do)

I end this week where I ended last week.

The Scriptures are vital in being a discerning Christian.

**2 Timothy 3:16 (ESV)** All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, **17** that the man of God may be complete, equipped for every good work.

- Scripture is beneficial
  - ✓ Teaching (what is right)
  - ✓ Reproof (what is wrong)
  - ✓ Correction (how to get it right)
  - ✓ Training in righteousness (how to keep things right)

See *The 99 Essential Doctrines* booklet.