



# SUNDAY EVENING

## AT BETHANY BAPTIST CHURCH

**Title:** A True Son in the Faith

**Passage:** 1 Timothy 1:1-11

**Speaker:** Pastor Dan Preston

**Introduction:** Paul wasn't writing to a stranger; he was writing to a son. A young man he had led to Christ, mentored in ministry, and now entrusted with the sacred responsibility of shepherding the church at Ephesus. The years had made Paul a seasoned soldier of the cross, but Timothy was still on the front lines. The veteran was passing the torch to the next generation. As we begin this new series, Paul doesn't start with church order or leadership — he starts with a relationship between a spiritual father and a son. Because before God builds His church, He builds His people. Before we can defend the faith, we must first live the faith.

### I. A True Faith (Verses 1-2)

Timothy's faith was not a secondhand religion. It was personal and proven.

#### A. A true faith is personal not borrowed.

Timothy's grandmother and mother taught him the Scriptures, but he didn't ride their coattails into ministry—he owned the faith for himself.

Repent and believe the Gospel for yourself, open your Bible for yourself, talk to God for yourself, and follow Jesus when it costs you something.



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B. A true faith is proven in ordinary obedience.

True faith is teachable, dependable, and steady when culture shifts. You don't need a platform to prove your faith; you need daily obedience in the place God has you.

C. A true faith is passed on.

If your story is blended, broken, or brand-new, you are not disqualified. In Christ, you are fully His.

## **II. A True Doctrine (Verses 3-7)**

Sound doctrine matters. It is the backbone of a healthy church and the safeguard of the Gospel. There are not many truths; there is the truth. There are not many gospels; there is the Gospel. When we change the message, we lose the mission.

Sound doctrine is like the foundation of a house — unseen but holding up everything else. When that foundation cracks, the whole structure eventually collapses.

Read your Bible. Test every teaching. Stand graciously but firmly when error tries to slip in. Because the moment we stop guarding the truth, we start losing it.

## **III. A True Use of the Law (Verses 8-11)**

The law is good when used rightly. It was never meant to save; it was meant to show our need for a Savior. It reveals sin, restrains evil, and guides the believer in righteousness.

Each one of the ten commandments is a reminder that the law exposes what's wrong in us. It shines the light of God's holiness on our sinfulness — not to condemn us without hope, but to drive us to the cross where grace abounds.

*“The law is the needle that draws the thread of grace.” — Unknown*



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When you see God's commands, you don't bristle against them—you thank Him for the boundaries that protect your soul. A guardrail is not your enemy when you're walking on a cliff.

The law shows us how lost we are; the Gospel shows us how loved we are.

### IV. A True Love (Verse 5)

You can't have true love without true doctrine, and you can't have true doctrine without true love. If we preach the truth without love, we become harsh and self-righteous. If we preach love without truth, we become hollow and powerless. When we hold both together—truth and love—we show the world what Christ looks like.

When the world sees a church full of love rooted in truth, flowing from the Gospel, extending even to those who disagree—they'll see something they can't explain. That's when doctrine becomes beautiful, and the Gospel becomes believable.

A true son in the faith must never choose between truth and love. He must live both—because both are found perfectly in Christ.

**Conclusion:** God's charge to us is the same today: Be true sons and daughters in the faith. In a world of compromise, stand firm in truth. In a culture of confusion, live with conviction. In a church that can grow cold or divided, love deeply and purely. Be faithful to the Word. Be filled with grace. Be guided by love. Our world doesn't need a new message — it needs faithful hearts who will hold fast to the old one.



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