

1 Timothy 1:1-11

Examining Our Mission: The Goal of Genuine Love

The Letter to Timothy...

- Written about 63-66 AD near the end of Paul's Ministry (he died about 67-68 AD)
- Is not mostly about how to organize the church, or how to run the church
- It is mostly about "how to be the church"
- The emphasis is on experiencing the love of God and sharing His love with others
- The emphasis is mostly on the character of the leaders, not the duties of the leaders
- The emphasis is on the nature of the church, not the structure of the church

1 Timothy 1:1-11

Paul, an apostle of Christ Jesus by command of God our Savior and of Christ Jesus our hope, To Timothy, my true child in the faith: Grace, mercy, and peace from God the Father and Christ Jesus our Lord.

³As I urged you when I was going to Macedonia, remain at Ephesus so that you may charge certain persons not to teach any different doctrine, ⁴ nor to devote themselves to myths and endless genealogies, which promote speculations rather than the stewardship from God that is by faith. ⁵The aim of our charge is love that issues from a pure heart and a good conscience and a sincere faith.

1 Timothy 1:1-11, cont.

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. Now we know that the law is good, if one uses it lawfully,⁹ 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.

1 Timothy 1:5 – Key verse

- “The aim of our charge is love that issues from a pure heart and a good conscience and a sincere faith.” 1 Timothy 1:5
- The first priority of the local church is to know the love of God and share His love with others.

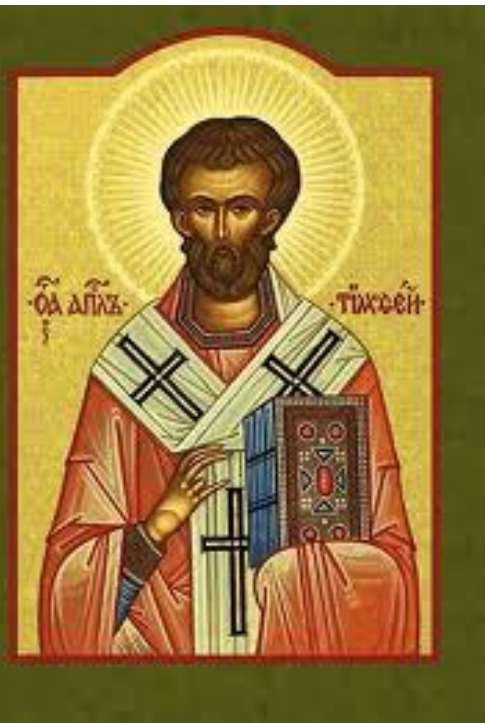
The characteristics of life-changing love

- All true love is from God
- The goal of our mission is to have His love flowing through our lives to touch others. This requires three realities in our lives:
 - A “pure heart”
 - A “good conscience”
 - A “sincere faith”

1. A Sincere Commitment, “a pure heart”

- “Pure Heart” means a sincere commitment to Christ (2 Tim. 2:22)
- Normally in the Bible, the “heart” is the seat of the mind, emotions, and will – the soul.
- The heart shows who you really are and a pure heart reveals an honest and open commitment to Christ.
- At our salvation God remakes us from the inside out, born again – 1 John 4:7-8
- Yet we must cooperate with God and guard our hearts from bad influences.

Introducing Timothy, the Man



- A “son” of Paul for 20 years
- Called to ministry as a young man (2 Tim 1:5-7; 3:15)
- A man of character and commitment, genuine love for believers. “I have no one else like him, who takes a genuine interest in your welfare.” (Phil. 2:19-23)
- Co-authored the books of Philippians, Colossians, and Philemon
- His weaknesses: sensitive and timid, vulnerable to discouragement.
- Martyred 96 AD

What is in your heart today?

- David Prayed, "Unite my heart to fear your name" (Psalm 86:11 NASB).
- "Direct all the powers of my heart and concentrate them on the one thing" (Keil-Delitzsch).
- Achieved by God but with our cooperation.
- "Above all things guard your heart, for from it flow the issues of life" (Proverbs 4:23)
- Is your heart divided today?

2. Moral Consistency, “a good conscience”

- Conscience is the inner awareness of our personal morality. A healthy Christian is convinced that his sins are forgiven in Christ – the basis for a clean conscience.
- A healthy Christian walks with the Spirit and is quick to seek forgiveness and cleansing when he sins and violates his conscience.
- A healthy Christian lives life positively for Christ, walking in the will and the way of God. His life is characterized more by obedience than by disobedience.

An essential spiritual growth principle to grasp:

- We cannot become consistent channels of God's love in this world if we regularly and consistently violate our Christian conscience.
- The mature believer: "But solid food is for the mature, who by constant use have trained themselves to distinguish good from evil" (Hebrews 5:14).
- Constant violation will result in a shipwrecked faith

The bad consciences of Hymeneus and Alexander and Jim Bakker



- Sincere beginning
- Huge ministry, PTL Network, 12 million viewers
- Limited accountability, Unsupervised handling of money
- Lifestyle included drugs, sex, dishonest finances
- Convicted of fraud, 8 yrs in prison, divorce
- Repentance, forgiveness, return to ministry

Areas we need to watch!

- Lawless
- Rebellious
- Ungodliness
- Profane
- Disrespectful to parents
- Murderers
- Sexual immorality
- Kidnappers
- Liars, perjurers
- Greed
- Lust
- Pride
- Sloth
- Gluttony
- Anger
- Envy

Seven Deadly Sins



3. Genuine Sharing, “Unhypocritical faith”



- “*Pisteos anupocritikou*” “an unhypocritical faith”
- A willingness to listen to the truth, even when it is difficult
- A constant desire to do what is right, even when no one notices
- Not wearing masks, but genuine, real, sincere

Four Hypocrites

- The Worldly hypocrite – makes a profession of faith for worldly gain
- The Legal hypocrite – seeks to merit heaven by works, but has no true love for God
- The Evangelical hypocrite – rejoices in salvation but has no desire to live a holy life
- The Enthusiastic hypocrite – strong feelings but hardly understands the gospel and lives an unholy life

**“What a privilege we have
been given by God to be able
to spend our lives giving His
love away.”**

Don Lessin

“Timothy...For I have no one like him, who will be genuinely concerned for your welfare. For they all seek their own interests, not those of Jesus Christ.”

Philippians 2:20-21

A pure heart...

A good conscience...

A sincere faith...

Don Lessin, "Abba Cry"

Is Jesus what you really want? Is He enough? It's not that ministry is wrong, or that having a beautiful family is wrong, but these things should be an outflow of our passion for Him. Way down deep, do you hear the voice of the Spirit of God talking to your spirit? Do you hear God saying, 'Turn off all the sounds within you, but My voice. Turn off the sound of business, family, and ministry. Turn off the TV, the radio, and the music. Turn off the call of sports and movies and entertainment. Let it all be silent within you, and hear My voice'? As you listen to His voice what do you hear? Do you hear the Spirit saying, 'Are you satisfied with Jesus? Are you really interested in taking time to be beautiful inside?' I encourage you to get quiet before Him today and nail down in your spirit what is the loudest sound that you want to hear.

Timothy contrasted with False Teachers

FALSE TEACHERS

- Self Authority
- False Doctrines
- Based on unproven myths and “endless genealogies” or pagan philosophy
- Promoted division and controversies
- Confusion

TIMOTHY

- Divine Authority
- Biblical teachings
- Based on consistent messages passed down through the centuries, eye witnesses
- Promoted God’s work in people’s lives
- Transformation