

I Timothy 1:1-5
Loving Enough to Confront

Setting the Stage (1-2)

Paul: an apostle (messenger of Jesus Christ with authority)

Commanded – he was not given a choice – ***the road to Damascus (Acts 9)***

By God our Savior (Isaiah 43:10-11) ***there is only one***

By Jesus our hope (Titus 2:13 / I Peter 1:3) ***our living hope***

Timothy: a true son in the faith – ***he lived to please His Lord***

Grace – Mercy – Peace – ***ingredients for life***

From God our Father – ***who loves us***

From Jesus our Messiah and Lord – ***our Savior and our Lord***

Seeing and Addressing the Problem (3-4) – ***do not ignore and pretend it will go away***

Fleeing is not the answer – stay put (confront the conflict) (Matthew 18:15 / Galatians 6:1)

Facing the source – command **cert**ain men (target the source) – ***OK to identify by name***

False teaching must be stopped – ***if left unchecked it will mislead many***

Exposure versus saturation (I John 4:4-6) – ***whom are you listening to?***

Examining even good teachers (Acts 17:11) – ***test all teaching against Scripture***

Fables and genealogies (secrets to spirituality?) (Titus 3:9) – ***God has no grandchildren***

Friction – controversy – division (not the goal for our teaching – Ephesians 4:1-6)

Does this teaching bring disunity and division to the body of Christ?

Stating the Motivation (5) – ***why are you teaching this? Attention? Or to honor His Word?***

Love is the goal – ***seeking what is best for others (not always what they like)***

Love confronts evil (Romans 12:9 / James 5:19-20) – ***it cannot be ignored***

Love seeks the best even when it hurts (Hebrews 12:2) – ***looking ahead at results***

Love's test of authenticity

A pure heart – no ulterior motives (II Corinthians 11:2) – ***bring honor to Jesus***

A good conscience (I Peter 3:15-16) – ***Christ in my heart, gentleness and respect***

A sincere faith – trusting God's leading and the truth & principles of His Word

(Hebrews 11:13-16) – ***living this life to prepare for the next***

Discussion questions for I Timothy 1:1-5

What does a true son in the faith look like? How could they be identified? (Philippians 2:20-22)

One who is not living for themselves but living to honor their Lord Jesus Christ.

One who takes a genuine interest in the needs of others – especially their spiritual needs.

One who is faithful in working for the gospel of our Lord (Acts 20:24)

Why are we reluctant to confront? What must we do before we confront someone else?

(I Corinthians 5:1-8 / Matthew 7:1-5 / Galatians 6:1)

We recognize our own failure. We want to be 'loving' and 'tolerant' of others.

We fear their response. / We need to make sure we are in a right position with our Lord.

We want our hearts to be in the right place, not judgmental but seeking restoration.

How can we recognize false teaching? (I John 4:1-6)

The source of the teaching must come from one who acknowledges who Jesus truly is: both God Almighty – our Creator, and the Son of Man – our Messiah. Teaching must also be in line with the foundation laid for us by the Apostles and prophets (Ephesians 2:20) as given in God's Holy, infallible word.

What evidence would you expect to see from:

Genuine love? (John 14:15, 23-24 / I John 3:16-18)

First and foremost, true love seeks to obey our Lord.

True love is willing to sacrifice oneself for another.

True love is seen in our actions, not just our words.

A pure heart? (II Corinthians 7:1; 11:1-3)

A pure heart seeks to get rid of things that defile our minds and our spirits.

A pure heart is devoted to Jesus, wanting to please Him and be true to Him.

A pure heart stays true to the teachings of Jesus – forsaking false doctrines.

A sincere faith? (Hebrews 11:1-3, 6 / James 2:14-17 / Galatians 5:5-6)

A faith that is confident about who God is and what He's done.

A faith that knows God personally and believes it is worth giving all for Him.

A faith that is demonstrated by what we do – not empty talk.

A faith that expresses itself through love.

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