

Building the Church Requires Yielding to God's Management

1 Timothy 1:3-7

In this passage, we see Paul telling Timothy how to deal with teaching that doesn't point to Christ.

I. Who were these teachers?

II. What were they teaching?

III. How are they to be dealt with?

- Some key words:
 - Stewardship
 - Love
 - Pure heart
 - Good conscience
 - Sincere faith

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For Further Thought:

1. Read 1 Timothy 1:3-7. What was the task Paul gave to Timothy (v3-4)? What was the aim (v5)? What outcome did Paul want to see as a result of Timothy confronting the teachers who weren't pointing to Christ? Compare this passage with Matthew 18:15-17. What outcome is hoped for there? How do you know? How does this apply in the church today?
2. Paul told Timothy to charge people not to teach any different doctrine (v3). Different from what (v10-11)? What are some of the topics that compete for our attention and draw it away from Christ?
3. Have you ever seen confrontation done well in a church setting? In some other setting? What made it good? What was the outcome? (Conversely, have you seen it done poorly? What made it bad? And what outcome?) What can you learn from those experiences?
4. Pastor Ken said the "different doctrine" referred to in this passage had both Jewish (focused on the law) and Greek (focused on Gnosticism) thought behind it. As such, it majored in minors, separated head and heart, and promoted arrogance rather than humility. How can we avoid these three errors ourselves?
5. The word translated "stewardship" (ESV) in v4 is literally "economy" and comes from the same root as "household" (3:4, 5, 12, 15). It refers to management, a way of getting things done ("in God's economy..."). How does the idea of bringing things under God's management help you understand what Paul is asking Timothy to do? What does faith (v4) have to do with it?
6. What is the importance of "a pure heart, a good conscience and a sincere faith" in the kind of love needed in the church (v5)? How important are the adjectives attached to those three nouns? What are some other adjectives that sometimes attach to them? What happens to love in the absence of those three things?