

Sermon Based Small Groups Study Questions

The Goal of Restoration: Love

1 Timothy 1:3-7

Start It: Connecting with each other

1. Have you ever had to tell someone at work, at home or a friend that what they were doing was damaging relationships? Did anyone have to tell you? Was it difficult? How did they / you respond? Was the relationship broken or improved?
2. Have you had to be a representative for your company or organization? Was it a heavy responsibility? Did you take greater care in how you spoke or acted?

Study It: Connecting with God's Word

1. [v. 3a] Why was Timothy left in Ephesus and why did Paul write this letter to him? Who are the principle people involved? Was the problem at the church a surprise to Paul ([Acts 20:29-30](#))?
2. [v. 3b-4] Where did the false teachers come from? What was the content of the false doctrines and what effect did they have on the church (see also [6:4-5](#))? What was the significance of the term "doctrine?" Why was teaching these doctrines dangerous?
3. [v. 5a] What was the goal of Paul's command to Timothy and how did it differ from false teaching? What does the term "love" mean?
4. [v. 5b] Compare the phrase "pure heart" with "good conscience." How are they similar and how are they different? Why does Paul use the adjective "sincere" before the word "faith?"
5. [v. 6-7] What does the term "teachers of the law" mean? What was the motivation behind these men's teaching?

Live It: Apply the Truth of Scripture

1. Should we expect false doctrine to infiltrate our churches from within? Has this been true throughout Church history? How careful are you to learn the doctrine of the gospel? What are the two principle errors concerning the person and nature of Christ?
2. How tempted are you to give higher priority to things of a spiritual nature – things that are not wrong in their own right – that interest you but that take the focus away from glorifying God?
3. When people disappoint you in the way they are living out their Christian life do you react in anger, annoyance and withdrawal, or do you respond with love so that they are restored to right fellowship?
4. How is the beauty, purity and love of God expressed in your life towards God, your family and friends and even your enemies?