



WEEK 7: EXAMPLES IN THE GOSPEL.

1 TIMOTHY 4:11-16

When the Apostle Paul instructed Timothy to be an example, Timothy was in a tough spot. As a young man, he was pastoring a church—that most likely had not called him—of people who despised his youth and inexperience.

Francis Schaeffer once asked, “How do we then live”? It is not by tearing others down, but by being godly in character (as a result of the Gospel)—no matter how those around us may act. God has given us gifts of strength and grace to work for the proclamation of the Gospel; carefully watching our life and doctrine is part of our ongoing example.

Timothy’s character was to shine in the more abstract, inner qualities as well. Kent Hughes writes, “*Timothy was to be loving in every circumstance and to all persons, exhibiting his faith through faithfulness, and to be pure not only sexually but in matters of the heart.*” Living on mission in the world means there is a development of character. Those who truly want to know Jesus have a heart that has been captured and renewed by Him, which yields a desire to understand right doctrine.

AUGUST 18, 2024

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- What kind of division have you witnessed in the Church?
- How have you seen the Church persist in unity despite differences?
- How does Paul’s encouragement to Timothy speak to your own areas of timidity or fear?
- What does your speech reveal about your heart? (You may need others in your community to help you identify this.)
- In what areas of life do you long for the Holy Spirit to strengthen your example?
- What has your experience been living out the Gospel? Do you live in guilt or grace?
- How is Jesus better than any other potential “lord” of your heart?

TODAY’S VERSES:

1 Timothy 4:12	2 Timothy 1:7
1 Timothy 4:11-16	James 3:8-10
Hebrews 3	Proverbs 18:21
1 Timothy 4:1	Proverbs 10:19
1 Timothy 4:9-10	Luke 6:45
1 Timothy 1:3	