
Study Series: 1 Timothy

Questions about 1 Timothy 1.1 – 3.13

1. This letter refers several times to the close relationship between the apostle Paul and his “son” Timothy (1.2, 18; 3.14; 4.11; 6.11-14, 20). How do you think sharing a common faith in God can strengthen a relationship? How can Christians help one another strengthen their individual relationships with God?
2. In 1 Timothy 1.12-17, the writer recounts his testimony and reflects on the character and purposes of God. What is your testimony? When is the last time you shared it with someone else? Why do you think personal testimonies are important?
3. Prayer is of paramount importance to the writer of 1 Timothy (see 2.1-8). Who does the author instruct readers to pray for, and what does he tell them to pray about? Why?
4. How do you understand 1 Timothy 2.8-15 against a modern backdrop?

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Questions about 1 Timothy 3.14—4.5

1. First Timothy is a kind of “Manual for Church Leaders.” What does the author say church leaders should be like, and what kind of behavior is expected of them (3.1-13)?
2. Why do you think the standards are so high (3.15; 4.16; 6.19)? In your opinion, what are the five most important traits of a church leader, pastor, or priest?
3. First Timothy 3.16 is probably an early creed, or a fragment from a hymn or some other piece of liturgy. It summarizes the content of the faith that the author wants the readers to keep. What stories and passages from the New Testament can you recall that illustrate each of the phrases in this verse? What key aspect of Jesus’ life is not mentioned in this verse, and how do you interpret its absence?

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Questions about 1 Timothy 4.6—6.21

1. Timothy seems to have been “young” for a church leader at this time. What special advice did the letter writer give Timothy about being a respected and effective leader (4.12; 5.1, 2)? How much does your own church encourage young people to be involved, to lead worship, and to serve?
2. Timothy’s church seemed to have included both poor people (e.g., widows, 5.3-16) and rich people (6.17-19). How is each group to be treated (5.22)? What is expected of each group?
3. What special warnings did the letter writer have for people who thought religion was supposed to make them rich (6.3-10)? How can religion make a person’s life “rich”? Are you “content” with what you have? Why or why not?