

Guard the Center
1 Timothy: Sound Doctrine in a Noisy World
February 22, 2026

Questions for Personal Reflection and Group Discussion

1. Read 1 Timothy 1:1-2.

How does Paul identify himself in verse one?

Under whose authority is Paul writing and instructing the recipients of his letter? Why does that authority matter?

To whom is Paul writing and how does he describe their relationship?

Do you have a spiritual parent or mentor? How have they impacted your life?

Do you have any 'spiritual offspring'? What impact are you having on the younger Christ-followers that God has put in your circle of influence?

2. Read 1 Timothy 1:3-4.

For what specific purpose did Paul instruct Timothy to stay in Ephesus? Why was Timothy's task so important? What was at stake?

3. Read 1 Timothy 1:5.

Why is it so important to keep the gospel at the center of lives?

What are the three things that fuel our love for others and how would you describe each of them?

4. Read 1 Timothy 1:6-7.

What can you identify in the current Church culture that is pulling our focus away from the gospel message of Christ's love?

How can we guard against spiritual drift and being caught up in 'meaningless discussions'?

5. Read 1 Timothy 1:8-11.

What is the purpose of the law and what are its limitations?

How does having sound doctrine guard against misuse of the law?

6. Read 1 Timothy 1:12-17.

How would you describe Paul's assessment of himself? What characteristics and attitudes does he display? In what ways do you identify with Paul's words?

7. Read 1 Timothy 1:18-20.

What encouragement and what cautions does Paul give Timothy in these last verses of chapter 1?

How might you cling more tightly to faith? And is there something keeping you from having a clear conscience? What will you do about it?