12.02.18

Family Fundamentals – House Rules
I Timothy 1:3-11

Today's passage comes from First Timothy Chapter One Verses Three through Eleven.

(I Timothy 1:3) "As I urged you upon my departure for Macedonia, remain on at Ephesus so that you may instruct certain men not to teach strange doctrines,"

(I Timothy 1:4) "nor to pay attention to myths and endless genealogies, which give rise to mere speculation rather than furthering the administration of God which is by faith."

(I Timothy 1:5) "But the goal of our instruction is love from a pure heart and a good conscience and a sincere faith."

(I Timothy 1:6) "For some men, straying from these things, have turned aside to fruitless discussion,"

(I Timothy 1:7) “wanting to be teachers of the law even though they do not understand either what they are saying or matters about which they make confident assertions.”

(I Timothy 1:8) “But we know that the Law is good, if one uses it lawfully,”

(I Timothy 1:9) “realizing the fact that law is not made for a righteous person, but for those who are lawless and rebellious, for the ungodly and sinners, for the unholy and profane, for those who kill their fathers or mothers, for murderers”

(I Timothy 1:10) “and immoral men and homosexuals and kidnappers and liars and perjurers, and whatever else is contrary to sound teaching,”

(I Timothy 1:11) “according to the glorious Gospel of the blessed God, with which I have been entrusted.”

We know according to First Timothy Chapter Three that this is about a household, isn't it? The purpose of the household as we understand it according to Chapter Three, is to be the pillar and support of truth. So, everything about this household has to be true. It has to be real. If you build your house upon the sand, it is going to go. If you build your house upon a rock, something true, something stable, something sure, you are safe. It will remain. Any household that is built upon that which is true will remain. As we talk about the household of God, we want you to also understand that though this is a pastoral epistle and is written to a pastor for a church, this is how your household should be run. Scripture says:

(I Timothy 3:14) “I am writing these things to you, hoping to come to you before long;”

(I Timothy 3:15) “but in case I am delayed, I write so that you may know how one ought to conduct himself

in the household of God, which is the church of the living God, the pillar and support of the truth."

It should not surprise us how Paul addresses Timothy at the beginning of this letter. How does he address him? My true child. You are truly my child. There are those in the Gospel of John Chapter Three who called themselves:

(John 8:39) "They answered and said to Him, 'Abraham is our father.' Jesus said to them, 'If you are Abraham's children, do the deeds of Abraham.'"

(John 8:40) "'But as it is, you are seeking to kill Me, a man who has told you the truth which I heard from God; this Abraham did not do.'"

What Jesus was looking for is the same thing that God has been calling for all along: those who would truly worship Him in Spirit and in truth. These are His true children. We are not talking about genealogy. We are talking about faith. As we come to this book, what we

are talking about is the conduct of the household of God and what really makes a household of God. As we talked last week, we begin to realize that this is home. It should be a true home with true children in it. In other words, it really begins with you being real about God. If you will be real about God, then we actually have a church here. If you are not going to be real about God, we have an auditorium with people showing up. We are no different than any other organization. What makes us a church is that we are real. It is one of the reasons why the church is called "*ekklesia*," which means the called-out ones.

We are actually called to be different than the world. You want to know what different is? Be real because the world is not real. They are displaying a facade. They are superficial and share those things that they only want you to hear them share. They are not transparent.

When you go into the Gospel of John, what you see is that our faith is a very transparent faith. Christ Himself

is, as He has described Himself, the light. You cannot get more transparent than that, can you? It was His grace that was so easy to see as you turn every page. It is no mistake that He loves you. There is no mistake that He cares for you. Where a lot of people might say that they love you but have ulterior motives, it is obvious that Jesus is not that way. As we come to this, the question is, “Now that we have established the fact that the church is to be a place of ‘true,’ now what?” Paul is now going to give us house rules. What are the household rules? With any home, there should be some boundaries. This is the way we act, this is what we do, and this is what we do not do. He begins by giving us certain rules. In Verses Three through Eleven, Paul fundamentally divides this passage into three sections. In every case, he is telling us, “Well, you do not do this, nor do you do this.” He tells us three things that we do not do. Think about the Lord’s Ten Commandments in Exodus Chapter Twenty; they are

listed. As you read God's commandments, one of the first things He tells you is what you cannot do. Paul starts off the same way in First Timothy.

In Verses Three through Five, what he is fundamentally telling us is that there cannot be any deviation from the truth. That makes sense, does it not? He has established that it is a true home; therefore, it cannot be a facade. It cannot be fake. It cannot be unreal. His point in Verses Three through Five is that there can be no deviation from the truth. It is one of the things that we, as a household of God or the church, are going to hold to tenaciously. We will not deviate from what we know to be the truth. There are two interesting passages about this to me in Scripture. In the Book of Romans, he simply asked one simple question when he talked to the Romans about any given subject. He asks, "What does it say?" He then would begin to quote the Old Testament. That is so profound. One simple question. "What does it say?" I hear people all the time

going, “Well, it could be this, or it could be that.” I respond, “Yes, but what does it say?” There is no way to get around it. One of the things we were talking about this morning is that the Word of God is so clear. It is impossible to convolute it if, in fact, you are looking for truth. So, the first thing you ask is, “What does it say?” Now, you know Who you have helping you? The Spirit, according to John Chapter Fourteen and John Chapter Sixteen—the Spirit of truth. Hebrews says,

“(Hebrews 3:7) “Therefore, just as the Holy Spirit says, ‘Today if you hear His voice,’”

Today means today. The Spirit of Truth talks to different people at different times. When He speaks, there is something in your heart that goes, “That is true.” He goes, “Okay, now it is time to make a decision.”

(Hebrews 3:15) “while it is said, “Today if you hear His voice, do not harden your hearts, as when they provoked Me.’”

Make the decision. What Scripture is telling us is that you have not only truth—the Word of God proclaiming to you what is true—but you have the Spirit of God saying, “That is true.” You go, “Yes, that is true. I cannot deny it.” As we read today’s verses, we have the foundation. God is declaring, “In God's house, we do not deviate from this.”

The second thing that you are going to see is in Verses Six and Seven. Verses Six and Seven tells us that we do not want any deviant teachers in this house. This makes sense. You do not want any deviation from the truth. You do not want any deviant teachers. Part of the responsibility of a pastor and of the elders and of those who are in leadership in the church is what? To make sure that there are no teachers who are teaching the wrong things or have wrong motives or in some way are using the office to manipulate. One of the reasons why there are so many different interpretations is because

people are twisting God's Word according to their own desires. They are manipulating it.

(II Peter 3:17) "as also in all his letters, speaking in them of these things, in which are some things hard to understand, which the untaught and unstable distort, as they do also the rest of the Scriptures, to their own destruction."

There you have it. In the household of God, there must be no deviant teachers.

The third thing that he says will take up the majority of the text, Verses Eight through Eleven. There must be no divergent alterations. I realize that sounds a little complicated, but let me see if I can explain it to you. He does not want you to divert Scripture to mean something else. No alterations. In other words, it says what it says. It means what it says. Use this for what it says. Use it the right way. There are many people who take Scripture and go, "Hey, I found a verse that I can

hit this guy over the head with." I basically call it the "Do not use the baseball bat to hit your sister theory." The baseball bat is to hit what? A baseball. Baseball, that is right. The purpose of the baseball bat is to hit the baseball. What would be a misuse of the baseball bat? When you hit your sister. That would be misuse of the baseball bat. What he says is, "Do not use Scripture inappropriately because that could be destructive and would not be truth. I want to reiterate: everything that the church does should be founded on the truth with no deviation.

We will start off that way as we look in Verse Three. He urged Timothy to remain in Ephesus, so we know where he is. Knowing where he is tells us a tremendous amount because of history. Much of our background is in the Book of Acts in Chapters Eighteen through Twenty. You would read about Ephesus and what they were. What was very clear about the region of Ephesus was that the city was highly mystical, magical, and

cultic. You have people involved in the metaphysical world of calling up spirits. We know that there was the great Temple of Artemis, sometimes called Diana. Their whole society centered around the worship of Diana. We also know that, when they came together, they conjured up the gods in the Temple of Diana through drugs and working themselves up into frenzies. If you ever see people working themselves up into a frenzy to worship, there could be something wrong. They were trying to commune with the gods by not being all there mentally. They were entering into the realm of this quasi-meditation or drug addiction. Opioids were pretty strong and powerful at that point. How did they worship their god? They would mix in immorality. They had temple prostitutes. How did they commune with their god? Through feelings, emotions, and a strange blend of esoteric narcissism. That is to say that you have this group of people who have heard from their god but nobody else has. They had this secret that they

heard. It was mysticism that they used to conjure up their god. But they believed that their god had been talking to them. Paul warns about this in the Book of Colossians. He says, “There are many who take their stand on visions, but do not listen to them.” You say, “Well, that is something new.” That is not something new. It was true in the days of Jeremiah. Let me give you an example.

(Jeremiah 23:25) “I have heard what the prophets have said who prophesy falsely in My name, saying, ‘I had a dream, I had a dream!’”

(Jeremiah 23:26) “How long? Is there anything in the hearts of the prophets who prophesy falsehood, even these prophets of the deception of their own heart, who intend to make My people forget My name by their dreams which they relate to one another just as their fathers forgot My name because of Baal?”

You see, we believe that the word of God is paramount. The world says, “Well, it is kind of up for grabs.” We often will confront people who say, “You know, God was telling me to do this.” I go, “Okay, in what chapter? What verse?” I do not mind hearing that God told you to do something. I would like to know where it was. I mean, are you listening to Him, or are you conjuring up what you think you want Him to say? Or are you trying to manipulate Him or His words?

(Jeremiah 23:28) “The prophet who has a dream may relate his dream, but let him who has My word speak My word in truth.”

(Jeremiah 23:32) “’Behold, I am against those who have prophesied false dreams,’ declares the Lord, ‘and related them and led my people astray by their falsehoods and reckless boastings; yet I did not send them or command them, nor did they furnish this people the slightest benefit,’ declares the Lord.”

It goes on to say that they did not give the slightest benefit to anybody. There is a lot of that. It was happening in the days of Timothy, and it was happening especially in Ephesus. What we know is that when Paul finally went to Ephesus and began proclaiming the truth, they began to see the power of God. They began to burn their witchcraft books and all the conjuring things that they had. If you look at the very beginning of First Timothy Chapter One Verse Three, it reads this way,

(I Timothy 1:3) <u>“As I urged you upon my departure for Macedonia, remain on at Ephesus so that you may instruct certain men not to teach strange doctrines,”</u>

Not to teach what? Strange doctrines. Strange means anything that deviates from the truth. For instance, in John Chapter Fourteen Verse Six, Jesus says, “I am the way and the truth and the life…” Strange would be anything that deviates from Christ. People ask, “What is so confusing? What is good doctrine? What is bad

doctrine? How can I know?" I say that it is very easy. If it looks like Jesus, it is good doctrine. If it does not look like Jesus, it is bad doctrine. What you have to find out is what does Jesus look like? The more you see what He looks like, the clearer you can see what truth looks like. By speaking these words, He has established Himself as fundamental doctrine. Therefore, watch Him. What we know is that without really seeing Jesus clearly, even though someone may tell us the truth, it is really hard to see how that plays out. But when you look at Jesus, you go, "Okay, that is what God means by that. The Bible may tell us to take a stand to do the right thing. Sometimes, people are not going to like that. For instance, you walk up to people and you go, "Okay, I am not doing that anymore." You know, you are getting in their face. Then you look at Jesus and His life, and you go, "Okay, but He did not do it that way." Therefore, you start patterning your doctrine after how Jesus handled things. He begins to reveal to us what the truth is. He

tells us that, in his household which is God's household, you cannot have deviant teaching. It is that which we will guard the most vigilant in this church. We will not allow strange teaching. People invent all kinds of things based on their own opinions. You have your own opinions. But do not express them here. Leave your own opinions out there. We have only a short time together. The world is feeding you all this garbage, all these lies. We have a short time to tell you what the truth is. So, we must make sure that it is very clear. We have to make sure that you hear truth from everybody, no matter which class they are teaching. I want to make sure that you are not teaching any strange or deviant doctrine, nor paying attention to "*mythos*" which is the Greek word that is used.

We know that the Greeks had a lot of myths and many ways to worship their gods. Artemis obviously was one of them. What we know about the goddess of Artemis or Diana is that she was the daughter of Zeus. I do not

know if that means anything to any of you or not. Her brother was Apollos who was the guardian of hell. It was not a good thing that they worshiped Artemis. I do not know if there was a meteor that fell from the sky or something else, but something fell from the sky and landed in Ephesus. The people began to worship this distorted rock and called it Artemis. They put it in the temple and began to build idols. Over time, she became more of a woman and took on the persona of "Mother Nature." The best way that I can describe the goddess of Artemis is that she was Mother Mature with a weapon. That is the best way I can describe her. She was the goddess of birth even though she was a perpetual virgin. So, she would be the one you would call on if you were going to have a baby. She was also the one you would call on if you were going to war. This is why she had spears and the stuff that she carried with her. She was "Mom" but pretty tough. You would not want to cross that mom. But the point is that all of

this is being interjected into this society. Also, there were all kinds of witchcraft and mysticism.

In addition, there were also Jewish mystics. You might not expect that. They were called “Theosophists.” You can write that down and maybe remember that. They were Jews who communed with God through mysticism. You might remember the seven sons of Sceva. They would commune with God through mysticism, sometimes through necromancy, sometimes talking to the dead, and sometimes through incantations. As with any kind of secret society, this would bolster arrogance and pride. This is why Paul will say to the Corinthians, who were Greeks, that knowledge makes one arrogant. He used the word where we get “*gnosticism*.” “Knowledge makes one arrogant, but love edifies.” The big problem that was infiltrating the society was that everybody wanted to be special by saying, “I know something you do not know.” We do that today in many different ways. Sometimes

we do it in education. We try to show ourselves superior by saying, “I am much brighter than you are. I have thoughts that you would never know. You are a nobody.” Other times, people will have experiences with God. “Oh, if you could only have the experience that I have had.” “Well, good for you.” But I can tell you this. When Paul he was caught up in the third heaven, God said to close it. He was not to tell anybody. Paul was given a thorn in the flesh to constantly remind him to remain humble. Why? Man would boast. Instead of boasting about himself, he boasted about the weakness he was given by God and declared that salvation is only through God rather than through him. Otherwise, people might have seen him as savior. God told Paul, “What I want you to do is this. You tell them that you know nothing except Christ crucified. That is what you need to tell them.” So, Paul did. That was his message to them. In this passage, Paus says the same

thing. We cannot let the truth get blurred. Truth cannot be compromised. Do not let the myths come in.

Later on, he talked about wives' tales. They would come in with all kinds of stories in the Midrash, the Mishnah, and all such writings. They would interject Jewish tales. Paul said, "Do not listen to them." They gave rise to speculation.

(I Timothy 1:4) "nor to pay attention to myths and endless genealogies, which give rise to mere speculation rather than furthering the administration of God which is by faith."

Fundamentally, people want to be seen as special. That is where they get their affirmation. If somebody excels in some area, then they must be really important. Sometimes we try to do it based upon the experiences we have had or our education. I would call them Gnostics. But sometimes we do it by virtue of our relatives. People try to find their ancestry to see if they

had a famous ancestor such as Napoleon or someone like that. They are trying to find some sort of root that makes them important. That is why he includes their "endless genealogies." They were trying to find some sort of affirmation. This is what Jesus ran into in John Chapter Eight Verse Thirty-nine. They claimed that Abraham was their father. They were saying, "Look at my genealogy. There it is, right there. Born of Abraham." Jesus says that has nothing to do with anything. People focus on the wrong things. You can sit with your family and talk about your genes. What you should be doing is proclaiming the truth, that you are related by your love for Christ. The one thing that binds our household together should not be the fact that we are blood relatives. The thing that should bind your family together is something truer than that because blood will never bind you together. What will bind you together is your love for Christ. That is what is real. Proclaim Christ in your household. Make that the

focus. It is okay to tell a story, but do not make it your focus. What brings your household together? The truth. Open up the word of God. What does it say? Let the Spirit of God bind you. You will find a drawing together that you could never find anywhere else.

In I Timothy Chapter One Verse Four, underline the big word administration. Timothy lived in Ephesus when Paul sent his letter called the Book of Ephesians. In Ephesians Chapter Three, he talked about an interesting mystery. In First Timothy Chapter One, he used the same word which is administration. The perception of the word administration perhaps in the English is possibly erroneous in the sense of how we perceive it. It is probably a correct translation, but the way we perceive it is a little different. When you think about administration, what is the thing that normally comes into your mind? Probably the thing that does not come into your mind is family. "*Oikonomia"* is actually the word that is used for administration. If you were to

break it down, *oikos* is the beginning of the word. It means family. That is pretty interesting. Then the other part means to build up. So, the purpose of the family is to what? To build up. You see this constantly with Paul. This is the administration of God. In other words, it is not only describing what the family should be doing, but it is defining what the family is. The family is a place in which we build up each other to be like Christ. We are building a body. The connotation of the word is building up a family. We are building a family. His point is that you can talk about a lot of stuff, but the question you have to ask yourself is whether it builds the family. If it does not, throw it out the door. In this family, we are going to build the family of God. Sometimes that means that we will read passages that rebuke you. That is going to make you stronger because you are going to say, “Okay, I am not going to do that.” Other times it is going to encourage you. But it is all going to point to being like Christ. That is what the church should be

doing. The church can be involved in a lot of things that we should let the world do. We should be building the body of Christ and proclaiming His message. Let the Word of God be superior.

He says that the administration of God is rooted in faith—our complete trust in who Christ is. We continue to go back to Christ and say, “Okay, so how does this look like Christ? More specifically, how does the Spirit of God begin to move me as I begin to put all of my trust in Him. In other words, we are not building this church in our own power, are we? We are actually believing Christ is doing it. We have often talked about the fact that in any church you have needs. But we would much rather the Spirit of God touch your heart. You come up to me and say, “You know what? I feel compelled that God wants me to do this.” We want God to stir hearts because we believe that the Spirit of God is more powerful than my direction. I teased Brian a while back. He came up to me and said, “Do you have anybody to

help head up the men's retreat?" I said, "Yes." He said, Who?" I said, "You." He said, "What do you mean, me?" I said, "You are the guy. You are the guy, Brian." He says, "Why am I the guy?" I said, "Because you wanted to know about it. The Lord burdened you in your heart." So be careful what you say to me. Some of you are going to be criticized. They might not think that the lawn looks well done. Okay. Then they are the guy. The Lord has burdened their hearts for the lawn. It is the Lord burdening your heart. That is the Spirit of truth. We walk in faith, not by sight. We will have needs. We will list the needs in the bulletin. We are not going to hound you about our needs. You can see them in the bulletin. If the Spirit of God moves your heart, give or act. We had a need for a building in India, and a man said, "Tell me how much?" I said, "I am not going to tell you how much." "Why? I'll write out a check." I go, "Where is the faith in that? What is the Spirit of God telling you to write out?" "I do not know." I said, "Well, go home and

find out. Then come back and write the check. But do not ask me; ask God." We want to encourage you to live by faith, not by sight. We want to encourage the relationship. We are not trying to build or raise money. We are trying to preach the truth, and we are trying to help you live by the truth. As the passage says, the way this family is built is in faith. When we talk about faith, guess what? We are not lying. We are going to live by faith, and we are going to expect you to do this as well.

According to Verse Five, the goal of our instruction is what? Love. In the previous passage, he told us what not to teach. Now he is telling us what the result is going to look like if we teach the truth. What is it going to look like? It is going to look like love. The evidence is that God is love. Remember that we are trying to build a house that looks like God, right? The goal of our instruction is the same as the goal in your own household. Parents, you have kids in your household. You are training them. The goal of your training is not to

make them good soccer players. The goal of your training is not necessarily to make them an academic genius. That is not your goal. The goal is for you to raise children who love one another. That is your goal. They will think of others more than they think of themselves. That means that sometimes you are going to tell your kid who received something to share it with his friend. “I do not want to share.” “Share that with your friend.” Why? You are teaching them how to love. Sometimes love hurts. We know that. We want to encourage selflessness. Unfortunately, parents give so much to their kids that they are teaching them to be selfish. They miss the goal of the training. I think one of the great benefits of being a part of Family Bible Church is that you sometimes get to clean the church. That is an act of love that you are conveying to the whole body. It is an opportunity for you to serve. Some of you build things; some of you decorate things. It is an act of love by which you can be a part of our body, and we

encourage that. Yes, we could hire people to do it, but that does not encourage the body to express its love for each other, does it? The goal of our instruction is love.

If you look in Verse Five, it says love from what? A pure heart which is going to be the indictment against false or deviant teachers. Deviant teachers have impure motives. That is what makes them deviant teachers. Do you know what a real teacher will do? He will care for you because that is love, right? That is like Christ. He will care for you. He is truly concerned about you. If he really believes that you want to learn, he is going to do everything he can to help you learn. I trust that you will always feel that in this church. If we feel that you want to grow or if you want to hear more or if you want to talk about something, we will push everything aside. Our men will do that. We will come over. (Do not feed me.) We will come over and talk about the things of the Lord. There is nothing I would rather talk to you about than God. Sometimes we might talk into the night if that is

okay. As the passage says, the goal of our instruction is to love from a pure heart.

What is the next phrase? A good conscience. As Paul will say continually, you really cannot have boldness in what you are talking about if your conscience is not clear. Your boldness starts waning. Guess what happened? You do not have a clear conscience. In Acts Chapter Four Verse Thirty-one, they spoke with all boldness and were filled with the Holy Spirit because they had a clear conscience. Paul said that his conscience would bear witness. That is a strange phrase, is it not? That your conscience would actually bear witness? But it does. The end of the verse tops the whole thing off because what he has been talking about all along is what? Truth. What about your faith? It must be sincere.

(II Corinthians 2:17) <u>“For we are not like many, peddling the word of God, but as from sincerity, but as from God, we speak in Christ in the sight of God.”</u>

We are not doing this for money. You could not pay me enough. I am not doing this for money. I am doing it out of sincerity of heart. I actually believe this. The love of Christ is compelling me to do this. I cannot keep quiet about it. That must be a part of the household. Their teaching cannot deviate from that. Let me put it another way. You not only cannot deviate from the truth, but you cannot deviate from the way that you convey the truth. In other words, it would be wrong for me to proclaim something that I did not feel strongly about. In your own household when you are talking to your kids about your faith, if you look nonchalant and/or apathetic, it looks like you are lying. You lied to your kids. You told them that something was important, but they can see that it is not.

That is why John Chapter Ten talks about the Good Shepherd. The sheep hear His voice. They do not hear His words as much as the inflection of His heart in His

voice. What He says means something to Him. Do not lie. Do not say one thing but say another thing later.

(James 3:9) “With it (the tongue) we bless our Lord and Father, and with it we curse men, who have been made in the likeness of God;”

Second Peter Chapter One Verse Three talks about true knowledge or that which displays itself in a real way. Everything about our message will be true and will be true in your household. There is nothing that is more unforgiving than hypocrisy in the household. Do you want your home to be good? Then it has to be true. In First Timothy Verses Six and Seven, he talks specifically about bad teachers. Paul warns about bad teachers in much of the New Testament. Peter speaks of those who exploit people out of greed. Believe it or not, and I know this is shocking, there are people who preach to get money. Does it shock you? Peter warns:

(II Peter 2:3) “and in their greed they will exploit you with false words; their judgment from long ago is not idle, and their destruction is not asleep.”

Jude says:

(Jude 12) “These are the men who are hidden reefs in your love feasts when they feast with you without fear, caring for themselves, clouds without water, carried along by winds; autumn trees without fruit, doubly dead, uprooted;”

They look like they love you. Have you ever had an encounter with somebody who seems wonderfully mushy? Then you caught wind of them saying, “I do not like that guy at all.” What do you think now? You do not know where the relationship is because the person seems to be two-faced. Those are hidden reefs. He is good at flattering you, but his words cannot be believed. Beware of flattery. Words can be used for manipulation. I do not know why people will fake or

pretend. According to Scripture, they are vying for power, recognition, and/or influence. There are many reasons. Paul warns Titus:

(Titus 10) “For there are many rebellious men, empty talkers and deceivers, especially those of the circumcision,”

(Titus 11) “who must be silenced because they are upsetting whole families, teaching things they should not teach for the sake of sordid gain.”

One of the ways that you know that somebody is teaching something false is when it begins to cause stirrings in the body. That is how I know. If somebody is causing more unity of the body, that is good teaching. If somebody is starting to stir the body apart, we have a problem. That is when we run out with a fire hose. We know that we have a problem if somebody stirs up households by causing divisions within our own body. Paul warns the Thessalonians of those who encourage

an undisciplined lifestyle. I thought to myself that most of the universities encourage rebellion and undisciplined lifestyles. We call them professional students. We see people with signs of protest. We know who they are. Who are these people throwing rocks? Well, they are people who are being stirred up by other people to be rebellious, to be undisciplined. Unfortunately, in this country we reward that behavior. But not in this household.

What Paul is talking about in Verse Six is people arguing over insignificant things. If you were to read it in the Greek, it says that they are stirring up arguments. They are creating arguments. Some people are not happy unless they cause an argument or debate. Often, they focus their arguments on themselves. They strive in fruitless discussion. In other words, it does not benefit anybody. They talk about the Law, but they do not understand the purpose of the Law. Let me say this. There is a clear understanding in Scripture of the

purpose of the Law. In Romans Chapter Three Verse Nineteen, it says that the purpose of the Law is to keep you from opening your mouth, number one. That is to say that you would have a tendency to boast. Romans Chapter Three says that it closes every mouth. You think you are good? Okay. Let's go down the list. God says, “If you have done this, you must confess. Therefore, you cannot boast. Then it brings us to the point of realizing that we need a Savior. If I cannot be good by the works of the Law and if no flesh can be justified in His sight, then I need somebody to help me. Galatians says the Law leads us to Christ. That is what it does. It points us in the direction of Christ. Paul says, “It is not the Law that is bad; it is me. The Law reveals my utter sinfulness. It reveals how terrible I am.” There is a purpose in that conviction. There is also another reason.

The Law is there to curtail or hold back those who are lawless. There are many people who talk about the Law

when they say, “Well, I think you need to do it for this reason.” Paul says that they are using the Law for the wrong reasons. He tells us that the purpose of the Law is to point to Christ. We are not to use in this household good things for bad reasons. We must not twist or distort it in any way. As I said earlier, the baseball bat has to be used to hit the ball. It cannot be used to hit the sister. We put the bat away because we are not going to use it anymore. If you look again in the passage,

(I Timothy 1:8) “But we know the Law is good, if one uses it lawfully,”

(I Timothy 1:9) “realizing the fact that law is not made for a righteous person, but for those who are lawless and rebellious, for the ungodly and sinners, for the unholy and profane, for those who kill their fathers or mothers, for murders”

In Romans Paul writes:

(Romans 13:10) “Love does no wrong to a neighbor; therefore love is the fulfillment of the law.”

If you are walking in love, guess what? You do not need the Law. You do not have to tell a guy who loves his wife that he has to be nice to her. You do not have to tell the guy who loves his wife that he must take care of her. There is a whole list. In fact, the more you go through the list, the more insulting it is to the guy because he wonders if you think that he does not love his wife? The question is, then, “Why would we ever use the Law? We do have to bring the Law in where there are lawless people. Man will often use the Law so that he can boast or brag in order to perceive himself as great.

What Paul says is that, in this household, we do not operate that way. In this household, what moves or stirs us is faith and love. That is how we operate. We agree with the Law and then go beyond the Law. The Law says to love somebody else like you would love yourself. Christ says that we are to love them more

than we love ourselves. We have a different Spirit that moves beyond the Law. Paul continues:

(I Timothy 1:10) “and immoral men and homosexuals and kidnappers and liars and perjurers, and whatever else is contrary to sound teaching,”

In other words, you need the Law if people are not living by the truth. What is the truth? We are to genuinely love each other. If you are not living by love, you are going to need the Law. That is the reason why parents have to discipline their kids. Their hope is that someday they are going to live by the Spirit of the Law, but until then they might be a little unruly.

It says in Verse Eleven,

(I Timothy 1:11) “according to the glorious Gospel of the blessed God, with which I have been entrusted.”

Watch the phrase, “according to”. “After the manner of” would be the best way of putting that. In other words, it is the Gospel that motivates our teaching and helps

keep our focus. Use the Gospel to save. Do not misuse the things that God has given. People often take Scriptures or go through the Old Testament and say, “Well, it says this.” I had one guy a number of years back who said that all the Jews were of the devil. I said, “No. I did not know that. Where did you get that?” He goes, “Well, Yehudi. It says Yehudi in the Old Testament, which is another name for Judah, which is another name for Jews. That means they are all of the devil.” I said, “Well, Yehudi means praise God. I do not understand the connection there. There is no devil in the text.” He goes, “Oh, I did not know that.” What is scary to me is that people are quoting things from Scripture and are making confident assertions, but they do not know what they are talking about. Because most other people do not know what they are talking about either, they sound smart and try to impress by saying these things. Paul says, “Not in this family. Not in this family.” May your family be much like this family.

Prayer

Father, we come before You today. Our prayer is to be like You. Lord, there are a lot of influences that come into the church trying to draw us away from being true, being real, from following Jesus, the True One. Father, we confess before You that we would not know truth apart from Your Son, Jesus Christ. He is the truth according to this glorious Gospel. We seek to be like our glorious Savior. We are striving to be like Him. We realize that means that we are going to have to be transparent and that we are going to have to be real. That means that we are going to have to pursue, above everything else, not the arrogance of knowledge, but the sacrifice of love. This above all else must be proclaimed in the home. Show us as we go through this wonderful book what that means, what it looks like, how it really conveys itself. Amen.

With your heads bowed and your eyes closed, the only thing that God has asked You to do is to walk in truth. If

in fact you do proclaim Jesus as your Lord and Savior, then do what He says. Follow Him with all of your heart. The one thing that God cannot stand is a double-minded man because you then become unstable in all your ways. Make a choice. Follow Him. Be all in.