
1 Timothy

The book of **1 Timothy** is Paul's letter to a young man he left to pastor the church at Ephesus (**1Tim 1:3**, **1Tim 4:12**). Paul became a spiritual father and mentor to Timothy (**1Tim 1:2**, **1Tim 1:18**) when they met on Paul's second missionary journey (**Acts 16:1-5**). Paul relied on Timothy throughout his life.

Paul wrote **1 Timothy** to counsel the young pastor on what to teach the church, who should lead the church, and how to behave in the church (**1Tim 1:3**, **1Tim 3:2**, **1Tim 4:11-16**, **1Tim 6:17-20**).

The name Timothy means "worshipping God."

Theme

The theme of **1 Timothy** is to **guard** sound doctrine in the church (**1Tim 1:3**). The caution is that false teachers corrupt the Word of God.

High-Level Outline

Conduct in the Church 1Tim 1-3	Conduct of the Pastor 1Tim 4-6
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 1Tim 1: guard the gospel of God• 1Tim 2: worship• 1Tim 3: qualify leaders	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 1Tim 4: faithful in teaching, exemplary in living• 1Tim 5: honorable in behavior toward others• 1Tim 6: avoiding greed

Key Verse and Key Word

1Tim 1:3 As I urged you when I went into Macedonia—remain in Ephesus that you may charge some that they teach no other doctrine. (NKJV)

The key word is **charge**.

Personal Reflection and Application

Read **1 Timothy 2:5-8**. Do you know that you have unlimited, direct access to God? You might know this **intellectually**, but do you **experience** this practically? This week, take some time to pray back God's Word to Him. Try some of the Psalms (**Psa 8**, **Psa 16**, **Psa 30**, **Psa 56**, **Psa 63**, **Psa 71**, **Psa 86**, **Psa 139**, **Psa 145**). Record your thoughts in a journal and share your experiences with a friend.

1 Timothy 4:16 challenges you to "take heed to yourself and to the **doctrine**. Continue in

them" If you are not careful, you may develop a disconnect between what you know and what you do. Why is it so easy for us to compartmentalize our worlds? We sing our praises to Christ on Sunday, then we gossip at the office on Monday. We serve the homeless in the morning, but speak harshly to our children in the evening. Do you need to heed the truths, lessons, and principles from the doctrine you passionately believe? If people observed your life, would they become convinced that you believe what you say you believe?

Character counts (**1Tim 6:3-10**). Have you separated yourself from:

1	Unwholesome words	1Tim 6:3
2	Pride and prideful people	1Tim 6:4-5 1Cor 4:7
3	Greed	1Tim 6:6-10 Php 4:11-12

Which of the three is the biggest struggle for you? Admit this to God through prayer and ask for His help in overcoming this struggle.

Small Group Conversation Guide

Read **1Timothy 1:1-2**. Consider the word “grace.” Once we become members of His family, God doesn’t take away our weaknesses. Instead, He adds grace. This is not saving grace; it is **servicing grace** (**2Cor 9:8**, **2Cor 12:9**). Discuss how God uses our weaknesses to serve Him and others. Read **1Corinthians 1:26-2:5**. Pray that God’s grace flows through you in all areas of your life.

In reading Paul’s letter to his apprentice, we see the apostle’s genuine faith displayed. He was authentic and raw. He was vulnerable and real. In **1Timothy 1:12-17** we see that

Paul was candid about his past. His grateful understanding of what he was saved from allowed him to excel in the ministry for which he was saved. Notice the kind of man that Paul used to be. Having Paul as your model of authenticity, share your faith story with the group. What did God save you **from** (past) and what did He save you **for** (present/future)?

God wants us to pray for all men, including those who have authority over us (**1Tim 2:1-2**). As a group, pray for those who have authority over you.

Leadership Principles from 1Timothy

Qualifications for Leadership

The qualifications for leadership in **1Timothy 3:1-13** are a great benchmark for leadership in any arena (social sector, nonprofit, business, or educational). Review this list. Make notes of where you need to improve. This will be a great, but humbling, leadership activity!

Know and Use Your Gifts

As leaders, we are responsible to God for how we use the gifts He has given us. Paul told Timothy to not neglect the gift that was in him (**1Tim 4:14**). Do you know what “gift” you have from the Lord? If you don’t, read **Romans 12:1-8** and **1Corinthians 12:1-26** to prayerfully discover your gifts. Once you know your gift(s), find practical ways to give yourself entirely to them. How can you take your leadership to the next level? Here are some practical ways:

- Surround yourself with people who are ahead of you in their leadership.

- Ask questions.
- Read books related to your gifts.
- Listen to podcasts.
- Go to conferences.

Do whatever it takes to fan into flame the gifts that God has given you!

Become the Leader God Desires

Reflect on the following actions that can help you become the leader God desires.

Live a godly life	1Tim 4:12 1Pet 1:15
Read God's Word	1Tim 4:13 Rom 15:4
Use your gifts well	1Tim 4:14 1Pet 4:10
Commit to ministry	1Tim 4:15 1Cor 16:15
Continue in sound doctrine	1Tim 4:16 1Pet 5:8-9

Leadership Slogans

Consider three slogans to help you remember your responsibilities as a leader.

Flee and follow 1Tim 6:11	Flee pride, greed, and temptation (2Tim 2:22). Follow God's Word.
Fight the good fight 1Tim 6:12	Fight to be faithful, clinging to God's calling (2Tim 4:7).
Be blameless 1Tim 6:13-14	Keep without spot. Earn the crown of righteousness (2Tim 4:8). Guard against the bad influences of the world (Jas 1:27).

Something to Find in Each Chapter

As you read through the book, it may help to have something to find in each chapter. Try these:

01. Why Paul believed God had been so merciful to him	02. Why we are to pray for our governmental leaders
03. What Paul called the church	04. How young pastor Timothy was to be a good example
05. Who is to be the first line of care for Christian widows	06. How God gives us wealth so we can both give it and enjoy it