

“False Teachers Illustrated – Part 2”
1 Timothy 6:3-5
(Preached at Trinity, October 10, 2021)

I'm supplying these notes for the benefit of busy pastors who may be engaged in bi-vocational work, feeling the pressure of preparing to preach twice on the Lord's Day while trying to balance full-time secular work as well as caring for their families. While the notes of another man are no substitute for personal study, I pray that these may aid in the process of preparing to preach.

Disclaimer: These are the actual notes I bring with me to the pulpit, which I follow loosely. They are not designed for publication. While I try to make every effort to give proper credit to my sources from the pulpit, adequate citations will sometimes be absent from my notes. If anyone feels their intellectual material has been used without adequate citation, please contact me and I'll make immediate correction giving credit.

1. In **Verses 3-5** Paul zeros in on the nature of false teachers and the false doctrine they were advancing. This was very timely. Paul had left Timothy at Ephesus to address the issue of false teachers that had gained a footing in the church.
 - A. They were teaching false doctrine, a different doctrine, novel doctrine, doctrine contrary to the sound words of Christ.
 - B. The false teachers were most likely elders which made it all the more dangerous. Ministers are charged to preach sound doctrine, adding nothing to it or taking nothing away from it.
 - C. And most likely, Paul knew them, which made it all the more grievous. Is it possible some of these false teachers were present when Paul warned them years before.
Acts 20:17 NAU - "From Miletus he sent to Ephesus and called to him the elders of the church."
Acts 20:29-30 NAU - "Be on guard for yourselves and for all the flock, among which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers, to shepherd the church of God which He purchased with His own blood. ²⁹ I know that after my departure savage wolves will come in among you, not sparing the flock; ³⁰ and from among your own selves men will arise, speaking perverse things, to draw away the disciples after them."
2. There is nothing more detrimental to the health of a church than false doctrine. Lies and deceit are the chief weapons of Satan. The church is the pillar and support of truth and must guard and protect its purity. False doctrine is always a danger and we must always be prepared to go to war.
3. In these verses Paul describes the nature of these false teachers and their doctrine as well as their impact upon the church.

Last week our focus was primarily upon the nature of the false teachers.

 - A. The false teacher teaches doctrine contrary to the sound teaching of Christ.
 - a. Sound doctrine leads to spiritual wellness – it edifies and builds up. It is the means of sanctification.
 - b. False doctrine causes spiritual weakness and decay. It doesn't lead to godliness.
 - B. We looked at their attitude – Paul says they are conceited, puffed up and proud.
 - a. Rather than trying to lead men to Christ they give their energies toward bringing people to themselves.
 - b. Christianity leads men towards humility.

- C. We looked at the aptitude of the false teachers
- a. In **Verse 4** Paul says they understand nothing.
In **Verse 5** Paul says they are deprived of the truth.
 - b. This is the nature of fallen humanity – ever knowing and never able to come to a knowledge of the truth.
4. This morning I want to conclude this section: We’ll continue to look at the nature of these false teachers as well as examining the consequences of allowing false teaching to infect the church. And I’ll point out how we should react to false teaching.
- I. The consequence of the presence of false teachers –
They cause strife and division - **Verse 4-5a**
"out of which arise envy, strife, abusive language, evil suspicions, ⁵ and constant friction"
- A. True doctrine creates unity among the brethren
1. Notice I say “among the brethren.” Doctrine divides the sheep from the goats. The sheep receive sound doctrine and even doctrinal correction. The goats kick against it.
 2. We must never underestimate the value and importance of unity in the Body of Christ.
Psalm 133:1-3 NAU - "Behold, how good and how pleasant it is For brothers to dwell together in unity! ² It is like the precious oil upon the head, Coming down upon the beard, *Even Aaron's beard*, Coming down upon the edge of his robes. ³ It is like the dew of Hermon Coming down upon the mountains of Zion; For there the LORD commanded the blessing-- life forever."
 - a. We find it easy to dismiss how detrimental conflict is. We find it easy to separate from every brother who isn’t exactly like we are. We zero in over ever non-essential issue.
 - b. This is not say we seek unity at all costs. It is not to say that we compromise truth for the sake of unity.
We need to remember the basis of our unity.
 2. Christians enjoy a glorious unity in Christ. We are bound to together in Him. We are the Body of Christ.
In His book, *Redemption Accomplished and Applied* John Murray wrote: “Union with Christ is really the central truth of the whole doctrine of salvation not only in its application but also in its once-for-all accomplishment in the finished work of Christ.”¹
 3. Paul described the unique nature of our unity.
Ephesians 4:3-6 NAU - "being diligent to preserve the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace. ⁴ *There is one body and one Spirit*, just as also you were called in one hope of your calling; ⁵ one Lord, one faith, one baptism, ⁶ one God and Father of all who is over all and through all and in all."

¹ John Murray, *Redemption Applied and Accomplished*, (Grand Rapids: Eerdmans Publishing Co., 1955), Page 161.

- 4 Sound doctrine brings about this unity.
- a. The early church found unity around the doctrines of the Christian faith.
Acts 2:42 NAU - "They were continually devoting themselves to the apostles' teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer." διδασχία - doctrine
 - b. They worshipped Christ with one mind and one voice.
Romans 15:5-6 NAU - "Now may the God who gives perseverance and encouragement grant you to be of the same mind with one another according to Christ Jesus, ⁶ so that with one accord you may with one voice glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ."
 - c. I repeat, this is not to say that sound doctrine creates unity universally among all men. The Bible teaches that true doctrine will also cause division. It will often drive away false Christians.
2 Timothy 4:3 NAU - " For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine; but *wanting* to have their ears tickled, they will accumulate for themselves teachers in accordance to their own desires,"

- B. While sound doctrine unites and strengthens the body of Christ as we gather around the truths of Christ, false doctrine results in division and strife in the church.
1. Paul says it false doctrine will result in "envy, strife, abusive language, evil suspicions, ⁵ and constant friction"
 2. The false teacher will be full of envy. Ministerial envy is a terrible thing. The false teacher will strive to draw people after him, to attract them to his side. He will not concede an argument at any cost. It is a defeat he cannot stand.
 3. Strife – false teachers take any disagreement as a personal insult. They become defensive, argumentative.
 4. False teachers will often be abusive. They love to argue, often on insignificant matters. They stir up strife and cause division. They often respond to disagreements with insults and personal attacks upon the character of others.
 5. **evil suspicions** means to ascribe evil motives to someone – false teachers often slander their opponents.
 6. Often, false teachers dispute over matters upon which the Bible is silent. They'll argue over words while dismissing the clear teaching of the passage. They often rely heavily upon personal experience.

II. The consequences of the false teaching – False doctrine leads to false conclusions. It twists the truth of Christianity. There are endless ways this can occur. In this particular case Paul wrote: **Verse 5** – "who suppose that godliness is a means of gain."

- A. The false teacher's motivation is often personal gain.
1. This describes the pastor who sees his work as a career rather than a ministry. He is a lover of money. This goes against the qualifications in **Chapter 3:3** – "free from the love of money."

2. Paul will address this more particularly in the verses that follow.
1 Timothy 6:10 NAU - "For the love of money is a root of all sorts of evil, and some by longing for it have wandered away from the faith and pierced themselves with many griefs."
 3. This is the tragedy of some ministries today.
They have devised great schemes to soak money from the naïve and unwary.
They make outlandish promises of blessings for giving. This is while they live in mansions and fly around in their private jets
- B. There is also the assumption that the gain itself is a sign of godliness.
1. They will often make a great show of their wealth because they see it as proof of ministerial success.
 2. Compare with the genuine. Paul described his own ministry.
Acts 20:33 NAU - "I have coveted no one's silver or gold or clothes."
Philippians 4:11 NAU - "Not that I speak from want, for I have learned to be content in whatever circumstances I am."
 3. The true man of God will not be guilty of the love of money.
1 Peter 5:2 NAU - "shepherd the flock of God among you, exercising oversight not under compulsion, but voluntarily, according to *the will of God*; and not for sordid gain, but with eagerness;"
- III. Our reaction to false teachers – Verse 5 from the KJV
"From such withdraw thyself"
- A. This phrase is not in some manuscripts but it was the consistent teaching of Paul
2 Thessalonians 3:6 NAU - "Now we command you, brethren, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that you keep away from every brother who leads an unruly life and not according to the tradition which you received from us."
2 Thessalonians 3:14 NAU - "If anyone does not obey our instruction in this letter, take special note of that person and do not associate with him, so that he will be put to shame."
Titus 3:10-11 NAU - "Reject a factious man after a first and second warning, ¹¹ knowing that such a man is perverted and is sinning, being self-condemned."
Galatians 1:8 NAU - "But even if we, or an angel from heaven, should preach to you a gospel contrary to what we have preached to you, he is to be accursed!"
Romans 16:17-18 NAU - "Now I urge you, brethren, keep your eye on those who cause dissensions and hindrances contrary to the teaching which you learned, and turn away from them. ¹⁸ For such men are slaves, not of our Lord Christ but of their own appetites; and by their smooth and flattering speech they deceive the hearts of the unsuspecting."
1. This was the teaching of the other apostles as well -
2 John 1:10 NAU - "If anyone comes to you and does not bring this teaching, do not receive him into *your* house, and do not give him a greeting;"

2. False teaching is dangerous. The false teacher must not be allowed to gain a foothold.
- B. Paul has given us the description of the false teachers so they can be recognized.
1. They deny the truth and their teaching does not produce godly living.
 2. They are arrogant and are ignorant of spiritual truth.
 3. They spend their time with “morbid interest in controversial questions and disputes.” These things can lead to division in the church
 4. They are governed by the flesh – They use the Word of God for personal gain.
- C. Paul says we are to avoid them
1. We must strive for doctrinal purity within our church.
 2. This is one reason for our new member’s class. We clearly explain our Confession and the doctrinal truths we hold dear. We don’t allow people to come in and sow discord over matters contrary to Biblical truth.
 3. The people of God must have a high view of God and His Word
We must strive to live by it.
- D. Our goal must always be holiness – both individually and as a church
1. Doctrinal purity must always be accompanied by purity of life.
Paul describes it in **Verse 3** – “doctrine conforming to godliness.”
 2. Right doctrine without holiness is intellectual emptiness
Without hearts on fire with love for Christ we are nothing no matter how religious we claim to be.
1 Corinthians 13:2-3 NAU - "If I have *the gift of prophecy*, and know all mysteries and all knowledge; and if I have all faith, so as to remove mountains, but do not have love, I am nothing. ³ And if I give all my possessions to feed *the poor*, and if I surrender my body to be burned, but do not have love, it profits me nothing."

Conclusion:

1. Our passion for sound doctrine must always be motivated by our passion for God.
We are interested in sound doctrine because we have a passion worshipping God in truth.
We are serious about His honor.
2. Without a passion for honoring God we are merely religious people.
Without a determination for obedience we are hypocrites
3. And our doctrine must always point us to Christ.
Without Christ our heads will be filled with knowledge while our souls will be filled with vile decay.
4. Our doctrine must draw us nearer and nearer to Christ.
2 Peter 1:2-3 NAU - "Grace and peace be multiplied to you in the knowledge of God and of Jesus our Lord; ³ seeing that His divine power has granted to us everything pertaining to life and godliness, through the true knowledge of Him who called us by His own glory and excellence."
2 Peter 3:18 NAU - "but grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. To Him *be the glory*, both now and to the day of eternity. Amen."