

Life In Community
A Community of Freedom
1 Timothy 4:1-5

- I. Abandonment of the Faith (1-2)
 - A. The later days will include apostasy
 - B. Why? – The causes given may surprise you
 - 1. False teaching
 - 2. No to promiscuity or loose living
 - 3. Rather – a false teaching to legalism and rigidity
 - C. It is not the teaching of freedom that Paul claims will lead people astray, but an unnecessary Pharisaical legalism that drives people away from the gospel
- II. The Two Examples Given: Marriage and Food (3-5)
 - A. God-given longing for relationship and physical intimacy
 - 1. We are made for community
 - 2. We are made for physical intimacy
 - 3. So long as these things are not abused or improperly used, they are good – not evils we endure
 - B. God given longing for food: garden/creation narrative
 - 1. We are made for eating
 - 2. Eating is often deeply associated with community
 - 3. So long as these things are not abused or improperly used, they are good – not evils we endure
 - C. What God creates is GOOD
 - 1. Especially if received with gratitude

- 2. Especially if made holy by prayer and the Word
- III. Being Careful with Our Freedom
 - A. Not a license for sinning
 - B. Not an object for inverted oppression
 - C. We are to be free as Christ is free (He has set us free, not so we can be what we *want* to be, but rather, so we can be what we *ought* to be)