



Unit 1 Guide

SERIES: LESSONS FROM THE CHURCH **Lesson #1: THE PURITY OF THE CHURCH** **1 Timothy 1:1-11**

Announcements and opening prayer.



Connect: an opportunity for people to immediately interact and connect with each other; icebreaker/attention getters. **Icebreaker:**

- ⑥ *What are some examples of pollution that you have seen? How did that happen?*
- ⑥ *What happens when good people do nothing to address a problem? Give some examples.*

The Bottom Line: Church Leadership is called to keep the teaching of the church given by Jesus to us, to hold in trust, pure and unpolluted, true to God's Word.

LESSON PLAN



Denotes Apply:

This letter along with a second letter to Timothy and one to Titus were known as the Pastoral Epistles. Paul shepherds those who will be shepherding the churches in Ephesus and throughout the Island of Crete. They were written around A.D. 66, just before the apostle Paul was martyred for his faith.

These two young evangelists, preachers, are somewhat like corporate trouble-shooters who go out and stay with a business until all the kinks and problems are discovered and corrected. They stay until it is running smoothly and efficiently, true to its vision and purpose. These young men were godly coworkers of the Apostle Paul who took on this daunting role for Christ. In these three letters every Christian can learn what Christ planned and designed the church to be. These letters are like goldmines for Christians who want to understand and be a part of the church that Jesus designed and implemented.

Today we begin learning some important lessons from the church by:

- *the words of encouragement that are given*
- *the direct commands to God's leaders*
- *the correction of problems and problematic people*
- *the call to never look the other way when pollution is entering God's house*

Question – How would you describe the church (meaning the world-wide body of Christ)?
In what ways do you think the church has lost its purity?

Transition: *Let's see what was happening in the church at Ephesus that caused Paul to send Timothy there to lead it forward for Christ. Since there is nothing new under the sun, this is a great study for us to spend an entire summer on. We need to learn from the church and allow her to teach us how to be pure and holy for Jesus, to bring glory to God.*

Read 1 Timothy 1:1-7

Timothy joined Paul on his second missionary journey. Paul sent Timothy to Thessalonica to represent him to the church on some issues. He sent him to Macedonia and Corinth to address issues as well. The two of them joined up to go to Jerusalem. He was also with Paul in Rome when he wrote three of the Prison Epistles. After Paul's release from prison in Rome, he needed to go east, so he sent Timothy to once again deal with issues in the church, this time in Ephesus. It seems Timothy was a young but incredible wise church leader.

(List answers to the following questions on the board)

1. What was Timothy to command certain men not to teach?
- ② What are some false doctrines that have crept into Jesus' church?
2. What was the first thing Timothy was to command them NOT to be devoted to any longer?
- ② What are some myths created in the name of Christianity that have been set over the Scriptures?
3. What was the second thing Timothy was to command them NOT to be devoted to any longer?
Go to www.jewishencyclopedia.com and type in "cabala."
4. Why did this problem in the church need addressed to keep it pure?
- ② What are some ideas people teach in our day that promote controversies rather than God's work?
- ② What happens in churches when everyone is asked to respect everyone else's teachings on Scripture?
5. What was the goal of the command for Timothy to address this problem without compromise?
6. What does it take according to this passage to be able to address someone with a serious issue that is dividing the church?

7. What had some of the congregation done?

⑥ How does this requirement of Timothy apply to the Elders and Pastors of the church today?

8. Why had they wandered away from a pure heart and a sincere faith?

Transition: *These were the minority in the church. Ephesus had a lot of great Christian people. However, it only takes a tiny infection in a wound to eventually kill the powerful animal. Impurity or infection needs addressed quickly. God uses Paul to point that out to us in a very powerful teaching. Let's focus for a moment on the healthy. They often get overlooked.*



Interactive Teaching Ideas: ideas for learner-focused teaching. (Have each table discuss the following questions. Then have them report their ideas.)

*What examples of purity do you see in the world-wide church? What examples of purity do you see at your church?

Read 1 Timothy 1:8-11

For who is the law made? **LIST THESE ON THE BOARD**

1. How does that statement relate in context to what Paul has just told Timothy he had to do in the church?
 2. What is the measuring stick for sound doctrine?
- ⑥ What are some spiritually acceptable ideas prevalent today that would not conform to the gospel message of Christ?



CARING TIME: SHARE AND PRAY

Close with a Praise Time: *"Lordship of Christ"* – Ask the Question: What have you done to keep the gospel pure in your life? What have you done to keep the gospel pure in your family's life? Share at your table and pray for the faithfulness of each other. **Prayer**

Memory Verse: "Don't let anyone look down on you because you are young, but set an example for the believers in speech, in life, in love, in faith and in purity" (1 Timothy 4:12).