

## WHAT IS OUR GOAL?

8/22 & 8/23

[1 Timothy 1:1-7](#) – What is your goal when someone disagrees with you? Do you want to convince them that they are wrong? Do you want to convince them that you are right? Do you want to keep the relationship with them? Paul has left his spiritual son, Timothy, to confront a few false teachers in the church at Ephesus. Paul gave Timothy the resources he needed to face the false teachers. Paul also modeled how to confront these false teachers. It is Timothy's turn to face them. Part of Paul's words states the goal for which Timothy needed to confront them: love. Timothy needs to confront them out of a pure heart, a good conscience, and a sincere faith. In Paul's experience, this is the only way to change the hearts and minds of the false teachers.

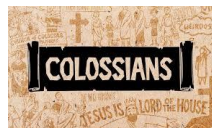
What does a pure heart look like?

What is a good conscience?

What does a sincere faith look like?

How can we love people through those three lenses?

### Sermon Notes



## Our Journey for

August 17 – August 23, 2026

This week, Jonathan Johnson will be sharing a message based on 1 Timothy 1:1-7. His focus is on loving people who think differently from us. There are plenty of people who disagree with our Christian values and viewpoints. There are people within Christianity who do not agree with our views that come out of the Bible. The question is, how do we love them? What is the motive of our hearts? Timothy is Paul's spiritual son. The Apostle Paul has taken Timothy under his wing. Paul teaches Timothy who Jesus is and what Jesus has done in this world. As Paul left Timothy in charge of the church in Ephesus, he gave him words of encouragement and words to confront false teachers within the church. Paul shares with Timothy the motive behind the corrections to the false teachers. It is the motive that Jonathan wants to share with us. ~ Pastor Seth

## AN HONEST THOUGHT

Mon. 8/17

[Psalm 73](#) - It is tough to be honest with ourselves. Most people either put their thoughts and actions on pedestals or in the gutters. We think too highly of ourselves or too little of ourselves. The psalmist gives an honest assessment of himself in verse 2: "...my feet had almost slipped..." The psalmist saw how those far from God were living. They had everything at their fingertips; power and wealth were theirs. What did the righteous have? They didn't have power or wealth. They were squeaking by in life. Their pure hearts led them into suffering and pain, but the impure hearts led them to a carefree life. So why not give up on a pure-hearted lifestyle? The answer lies at the end of the psalm in verses 23-28. The answer is that those with a pure heart have God with them and will be with God for eternity.

Take a moment to look at your life honestly. When have you been tempted to follow those who have power and wealth?

What does a life with a pure heart look like?

## ACTIONS ARE LOUD!

Tue. 8/18

[1 Samuel 26:1-25](#) – How do you treat others who think differently from you? Do you show them kindness and respect? Do you listen to them, or do you ignore them? The first king of Israel was Saul, and the second king was David. Before David became king, Saul sought to kill him because of jealousy and envy. David has a choice to make: does he take the throne by force? Saul chases David all over the countryside to kill him. In today's reading, Saul and his army stopped for the night. David and one of his men sneak into the camp. They could kill Saul and put an end to their days of running. David steals a water jug and Saul's spear, both of which are beside Saul's head. David's heart is pure, his conscience is clear, and his faith in God is firm. So, he waits for God's timing, not his own.

What do your words and actions say to those who are different from you?

How can you show them love?

## JUSTICE

Wed. 8/19

[Amos 5:4-15](#) – The main issue God had with His people is how they treated those who were different. Amos was a prophet before the people of God would go into exile. He spoke God's word to the people about how they treated the poor, the orphaned, and the widows. The people wouldn't listen. They wanted to keep their lifestyles and their power structures. So, they couldn't give justice to those who were lacking. Those in power gained their wealth and power over time by focusing on themselves and securing what they could for their own benefit rather than the needs of their neighbors. God was going to hold them accountable for their actions, but His love for them opened the door for them to repent and turn back to His way. God's grace has always been there.

How can we extend grace to those who are different than us?

How does God hold us accountable for our words and actions?

## IS THIS POSSIBLE?

Thur. 8/20

[Matthew 5:38-48](#) – In the Gospel of Matthew, Jesus teaches his disciples to go above and beyond what the religious leaders have taught. Jesus challenges them to live a life that is impossible without God's help. Today, we are looking at a small part of that teaching. Jesus instructs them on how to treat those who hurt them and those who are their enemies. When someone hurts us, we want revenge, but Jesus says to love them and pray for them. It is easier to hate them, ignore them, and speak badly about them. Oftentimes, this is what we do until the Holy Spirit convicts us and reminds us of what Jesus said. As we obey Jesus' words, it becomes hard not to love those who hurt us. This love comes from our relationship with Jesus, not from our own strength or power. It also takes time for love to develop, so be patient with yourself.

How can we live out Matthew 5:38-48?

Who is the Holy Spirit leading you to love?

## A WAY OF LIFE

Fri. 8/21

[1 Peter 3:8-18](#) – When we come across those who disagree with us, we have a choice to make: will we love them or hate them? The current state of our culture tells us to hate them and cut all ties to those who disagree with us. Peter tells us to do something different. He tells us to repay the insult with a blessing. Peter reminds us to live our lives with humility, sympathy, and compassion. As we do so, we may be seen as weak and powerless. We are not. We have the Holy Spirit's authority and power backing us, which gives us the strength and wisdom to speak about Jesus' love and forgiveness in every situation. We should be ready to answer those who ask why we do what we do. Hopefully, our answer leads others to see Jesus.

What do you do when people insult you?

How can you bless those who insult you?