



The Scrolls

Helping **CENTRAL BIBLE CHURCH** Families Belong, Become and Go Beyond V22 N6 February 9, 2020

DEAR TIMOTHY

"Where Are Your Children?"

1 Timothy 1:1-2

THIS WEEK'S CORE COMPETENCY

Disciple-Making

I multiply godly beliefs, virtues and practices in others to encourage their spiritual growth in Christ.

"And the things you have heard me say in the presence of many witnesses entrust to reliable people who will also be qualified to teach others."

2 Timothy 2:2



How are disciples made?

Loneliness is on the rise in the US. Cigna recently conducted a US survey of 20,000 adults regarding loneliness. Nearly half surveyed (46-47%) reported feeling alone on an intermittent to frequent basis. Forty-three percent (43%) reported frequently feeling isolated and unsatisfied in their relationships. The age group reporting the highest levels of loneliness were 18- to 22-year-olds. Social media is not a big help. Heavy social media users averaged a loneliness score of 43.5; those who never used social media scored 41.7.

According to Julianne Holt-Lunstad, PhD, professor of psychology at BYU, loneliness can contribute to poor health with risks equivalent to smoking 15 cigarettes a day. Her work concluded that loneliness can be more harmful than the effects of obesity (*Perspectives on Psychological Science*, Vol. 10, No. 2, 2015).

With continued family disintegration and increasing challenges to romantic partnerships, many feel doomed to a life of living alone. Others feel trapped in unfulfilling groupings that are stale and unrewarding. If we struggle to find intimacy and relationship as a society, what is the solution?

C.S. Lewis wrote an insightful treatment of human relationships in a work titled *The Four Loves* (reprint by HarperOne, 2017). Lewis described four expressions of love that are vital for human flourishing. He based this analysis on four words for *love* found in classical and biblical Greek. Of all the loves, Lewis invests considerable value in *Friendship*. From the Greek, "*phila*," we get the word *Philadelphia* - the city of brotherly love. Friendship is the love of brothers, not brothers of kinship, but of purpose. This "*philia*" grows out of common conditions and en-

deavors. More than comradeship, it grows from sharing experiences together. While our world elevates Affection, Romance and even Charity, we often forget about Friendship.

Lewis insightfully observed, "Very few modern people think Friendship a love of comparable value or even a love at all . . . To the Ancients, Friendship seemed the happiest and most fully human of all loves; the crown of life and the school of virtue. The modern world, in comparison, ignores it. We admit of course that besides a wife and family a man needs a few 'friends'. But the very tone of the admission, and the sort of acquaintanceships which those who make it would describe as 'friendships', show clearly that what they are talking about has very little to do with that *Philia* which Aristotle classified among the virtues . . . It is something quite marginal; not a main course in life's banquet; a diversion; something that fills up the chinks of one's time. How has this come about? The first and most obvious answer is that few value it because few experience it. And the possibility of going through life without the experience is rooted in that fact which separates Friendship so sharply from both the other loves. Friendship is—in a sense not at all derogatory to it—the least natural of loves; the least instinctive, organic, biological, gregarious and necessary."

Though elusive, friendship is what is pictured in the relationship between Paul and Timothy. They shared a mission of spreading the gospel of Jesus. They served each other and Christ together. Loneliness receded as these two were in league together. Discipleship is often good friendship. God help each of us to be devoted to not only families, lovers and saints. May we each find friends and become friends to help others in the advance of God's kingdom. (Eric Wright, guest author)

1 EXAMINE GOD'S WORD

1 Paul, an apostle of Christ Jesus by the command of God our Savior and of Christ Jesus our hope,

2 To Timothy my true son in the faith:

Grace, mercy and peace from God the Father and Christ Jesus our Lord.

Acts 16:1-5

1 Paul came to Derbe and then to Lystra, where a disciple named Timothy lived, whose mother was Jewish and a believer but whose father was a Greek. 2 The believers at Lystra and Iconium spoke well of him. 3 Paul wanted to take him along on the journey, so he circumcised him because of the Jews who lived in that area, for they all knew that his father was a Greek. 4 As they traveled from town to town, they delivered the decisions reached by the apostles and elders in Jerusalem for the people to obey. 5 So the churches were strengthened in the faith and grew daily in numbers.

Philippians 2:19-23

19 I hope in the Lord Jesus to send Timothy to you soon, that I also may be cheered when I receive news about you. 20 I have no one else like him, who will show genuine concern for your welfare. 21 For everyone looks out for their own interests, not those of Jesus Christ. 22 But you know that Timothy has proved himself, because as a son with his father he has served with me in the work of the gospel. 23 I hope, therefore, to send him as soon as I see how things go with me.

After reading the text, practice your Observation skills by noting the following:

- Underline all the words related to family in all three passages.
- Circle all the words that relate to faith, church and the gospel in all three passages.
- Draw arrows from “mother” and “father” to words that describe them in all three passages.
- Bracket the reasons for Timothy’s circumcision in Acts 16.
- Underline “genuine concern” and “proved” in Philippians 2.
- Double underline “served” in Philippians 2.

What one word would you use to describe the TONE of this passage? (i.e., stern, joyful, cautious, etc.)

What word or idea stands out to you in this passage?

What is one thing you do not understand in this passage?

Try to summarize the THEME of this passage in one word. If you were going to describe these verses, you might say, “This text is about _____.”



DIG DEEPER

Answer the questions to help you apply the passage and prepare for discussion

1. What is the relationship of hope to salvation and discipleship (1Ti 1:1-2)?

2. From the passages cited, describe the relationship between Paul and Timothy.

3. What reputation did Timothy have before joining Paul?

4. Why would Paul lead Timothy to do something that he encouraged others not to do (Ac 16:3; Gal 5:1-12)?

5. Why did Paul think so highly of Timothy (Php 2:19-21)?

6. Why did Paul consider Timothy a “true son”?

7. Where was Timothy when Paul wrote this letter? What was Timothy doing?

8. How is spreading the Gospel enhanced with mentorships and partnerships?

9. Who do you consider to be close to you (a brother, sister, son, daughter, father or mother) in your faith? Why?

10. Is faith in Christ a personal and private matter or is it a shared experience with others? Explain.

Commentary On The Text

The two loudest voices who proclaimed the arrival and the achievements of Jesus the Christ, the Son of God, were none other than John the Baptist and Paul the Apostle. Both men were zealous and extreme in their views and speech. Both men challenged religious convention and both were arrested for publicly speaking the truth. Both John the Baptist and Paul were executed as martyrs for the faith at the hands of governmental rulers.

Though they had much in common, these two fiery torches of truth burned in decidedly different lamps. John went to the lonely wilderness and people came out to see his eccentricities. Paul went to the bustling cities and sought out a hearing with a variety of audiences. John made a prophetic spectacle of himself in both diet and apparel. Paul made himself “all things to all people so that by all possible means,” he might save some. Perhaps the greatest contrast between these two men was each man’s involvement with people. In the New Testament, John the Baptist had disciples (Mk 2:18) but was mostly described as alone. Paul, in stark contrast, was almost never portrayed alone. Only at his last was he isolated (2Ti4:16), but even in this state of abandonment he called for others to join him. Unlike John with his solitary voice crying in the wilderness, Paul surrounded himself with a choir of harmonizing voices that amplified his own influence. Paul was not a solo act; he played with a very large band. Paul worked with people and through people to spread the Gospel to the far reaches of his world. Perhaps the greatest expression of this people-work comes at the end of his letter to the Romans. Paul rolls the credits in Romans chapter 16 to showcase 37 people he loved and served alongside. Paul was not a “lone ranger.”

Paul had a few favorites in his band. One of these “favorites” was Timothy. “Timothy was a much younger colleague of Paul’s who had become his frequent traveling companion and close friend. According to Acts 6:1-3, Timothy was from Lystra, a Lycian town in the Roman province of Galatia in south-central Asia Minor. Paul probably met him for the first time (ca. AD 46-48) during his first missionary endeavor in this area (cf. Acts 13:49-14:25 and 2 Tim 3:11). It is altogether likely that he and his mother and grandmother became converts at this time. During Paul’s second visit in this area (ca. AD 49-50), on the recommendation of the local believers (Acts 16:2), he decided to take Timothy along on his travels. But because Timothy was of mixed lineage (Jewish mother

and pagan father), and so as not to undermine his mission among Diaspora Jews, he had Timothy circumcised. Thus began a lifelong relationship of mutual affection (cf. Phil. 2:19-24). Paul variously calls Timothy his ‘beloved and faithful son in the Lord’ (1 Cor. 4:17; Phil. 2:22; 1 Tim. 1:2; 2 Tim. 1:2) and his fellow worker in the gospel (Rom. 16:21; 1 Thess. 3:2; 1 Cor. 16:10; Phil. 2:22). As his son, he became Paul’s most intimate and enduring companion, who followed him closely (1 Tim. 4:6; 2 Tim. 3:10-11; 2 Tim. 1:13; 2:2), shared his point of view (Phil. 2:20) and could articulate his ways to the churches (1 Thess. 3:2-3; 1 Cor. 4:17). As Paul’s fellow worker, Timothy had been entrusted with three previous assignments to churches to Thessalonica, ca. AD 50 (1 Thess. 3:1-10), to Corinth, ca AD 53-54 (1 Cor. 4:16-17; 16:10-11), and to Philippi, ca AD 60-62 (Phil. 2:19-24). He also collaborated in six of Paul’s extant letters (1 and 2 Thessalonians, 2 Corinthians, Colossians, Philemon, Philippians; cf. Romans 16:12). In the present letters [1 and 2 Timothy] he is on yet another assignment, this time a most difficult one. He has been left in Ephesus to stop some false teachers who were in the process of undoing the church as a viable Christian alternative for that city” (Gordon Fee, *Understanding the Bible Commentary: 1 and 2 Timothy and Titus*, 1-2).

Timothy was Paul’s protégé. Paul was Timothy’s mentor. These two succeeded with the support of each other. The ministry and legacy of Paul would be unthinkable without this friendship and partnership.

Paul’s discipleship of Timothy comes to completion when Timothy is separated from Paul and must lead when Paul cannot. The greatest test of successful discipleship occurs when the discipler exits the stage and the disciple is forced to take the lead role. The books of 1 and 2 Timothy present a receding Paul instructing an ascending Timothy to lead one of the most influential churches in the Roman Empire (1 Timothy 1:3).

Who are you partnering with to do the Christian life and ministry? Who do you lead and serve together with? Who is your Timothy? Also consider, who is your Paul? Who in your life has the permission to challenge you to greatness? Who is following your example? Discipleship is always about following and leading. Good leaders have been great followers; great followers are groomed to be great leaders. Who are you supporting and assisting? Who are you preparing to take your place? Paul and Timothy are great examples of the circle of discipleship. May we find “true sons” and may we be good mothers and fathers of faith.

Word Studies/Notes

1Ti 1:1 *Hope*

"The special characteristic stated about Christ Jesus is that he is our 'hope' (*elpis*). Paul's apostleship to 'all people,' Jew and Gentile exists not only because God is Savior for all people but also because of the sure expectation Paul has for himself and for those who respond to the gospel embodied in Christ Jesus as our hope. In the NT, because *elpis* [hope] is based on the person and work of Christ Jesus, the word takes on a note of confident expectation, even if that expectation is not yet fully realized and is still in the future (cf. Rom. 5:2, 5; 8:24, 25; 15:4, 13; Tit. 1:2; 2:13; 3:7). Because the hope is that of the gospel (Col. 1:23) and is embodied in the one who brings the gospel, Christ Jesus (Col. 1:27, 'Christ in you, the hope of glory'), Paul may speak of the bringer or basis of the hope of future salvation, which comes about at the return of Christ (Tit. 2:13)" (George W. Knight, *New International Greek Testament Commentary*, 62).

v. 2 *true*

"Paul says not only that Timothy is a *teknon* [son] but also that he is a true (*gnesios*) child. This note is found also when Paul refers to Timothy in 1 Cor. 4:17 ('faithful' *piston*) and especially in Phil. 2:22 where of Timothy's worth and service it is said *ws patri teknon sun emoi edouleusen* ['as a father with a son, he has served together with me']. The keynote of faithful service and proven worth is probably the significance of *gnesios* [true]" (Knight, 64).

v. 2 *son*

"The apostle's description of Timothy as *my true son in the faith* (*gnesios* means 'genuine, sincere') is striking of the intimate Christian relationship between two men. There was nothing spurious about Timothy's standing *in the faith*. While there is no article in the Greek phrase, which could therefore be translated 'in faith', it is preferable to interpret the phrase as referring to the gospel. Timothy stood in the same tradition as Paul himself. The father-son relationship terminology to express master-disciple relationship was widespread in contemporary society, especially in the mysteries (cf. Dibelius-Conzelmann). It took on new meaning, however, when related to the Christian faith" (Donald Guthrie, *The Pastoral Epistles*, TCNT, 70).

v. 2 *faith*

"The locus of their relationship was their shared belief in Christ. The: prepositional phrase that describes this, 'in faith,' is Pauline shorthand for being a Christian; here it

describes the sphere in which Timothy is Paul's child. the common bond that unites them as family (cf. Titus 1:4, "in our common faith"). It is about the equivalent of the reality described by the other Pauline phrase, 'in Christ,' with 'in faith' viewing that reality from the perspective of the activity (and content) of belief" (Philip H. Towner, *The Letters to Timothy and Titus, New International Commentary on the New Testament*, 99-100).

Ac 16:3 *circumcised*

"Timothy's case differs substantially from Titus's because Timothy has a Jewish mother and was raised with Jewish faith; he merely lacked circumcision. As Luke's Paul opposes only Gentile, not Jewish, circumcision, the same may be said for the epistolary Paul (1 Cor. 7:18-19; Gal 5:6; 6:15). Further, Timothy's circumcision is here explicitly a missionary strategy, not a concession to others' mistaken standards of salvation or holiness. Paul specifically says that he practiced Jewish customs and submitted to Jewish law to reach Jewish people (1 Cor. 9:20). It is difficult to believe that this submission to Jewish customs excluded circumcision where it was not a matter of Gentiles' salvation, especially when Paul lists circumcision as among his own Jewish 'qualifications' (Phil. 3:5)" (Craig S. Keener, *Acts: An Exegetical Commentary: Volume 3*, 2303).

Other Texts to Consider

1 Corinthians 4:17

"For this reason I have sent to you Timothy, my son whom I love, who is faithful in the Lord. He will remind you of my way of life in Christ Jesus, which agrees with what I teach everywhere in every church."



APPLY THE TEXT

CENTRAL MESSAGE OF THE TEXT

Live out your faith in loyal and compassionate partnership with other followers of Christ.

CENTRAL MESSAGE FOR YOUR LIFE

(Rewrite the Central Message above to personally apply to your own life)



3 LIVING QUESTIONS

The “Living Questions” are simple questions we may ask of any text in order to apply the Bible to our life. Answer the questions below as personally as you can.

1. What does this passage teach me about God?
2. What does this passage teach me about myself?
3. What does this passage lead me to do?



FAMILY TALK

Mary Alice began cutting my hair when I was 18. Every time I was in her chair she dropped a little God-Jesus-prayer nugget for me to consider, which for years went in one ear and out the other. When I was 26-years-old and at the end of my rope, I asked my friend Mary Alice to take me to church. Though she was wrangling infant twins at the time, she joyfully and willingly took me by the hand and ushered me into a place I had only been a handful of times in my life. I was frightened and uneasy; I was also hurting, broken and knew something was missing. She lent me her Bible and sent me to the book of John. With grace, love and peace, she and answered hard questions from a defiant unbeliever whose only experience with God was a man banging on a podium. She corrected wrong theology and put me on a path toward a Holy God that wanted a relationship with me. I remember the day God called me. I gripped her hand as a life support as I made the long walk down the aisle to profess faith in Jesus Christ. Still today, her favorite question to me is, "How's your walk?" Chances are there's someone that has poured into your life. Now it's time to pass this legacy of discipleship on to our kids! Tell them your story, answer the hard questions, lead them with grace and love. We are praying for you!

What Does The Bible Say?

Read 1 Timothy 1:1-2

1. Who is writing this letter and what do we learn about him?
2. Who is the letter written to and what do we learn about them?
3. Who gave Paul authority in his ministry?

What Do You Think?

In your own words, write what *grace*, *mercy* and *peace* mean?

What Do You Do?

Write a letter to someone who has helped you understand the Bible.

CORE COMPETENCY: Disciple-Making

I multiply godly beliefs, qualities, and behaviors in others to encourage them to grow in Christ.

MEMORY VERSE: Proverbs 19:20

Listen to advice and accept instruction, and in the end you will be wise.

KidPIX COUPON

Earn 1 KidPIX Token by completing the CENTRALKids Bible Study on this page and another token by memorizing and reciting the memory verse for this week.

Questions: kids@wearecentral.org

- _____ I completed my Bible Study
- _____ I memorized this week's verse
- _____ I brought my Bible to church
- _____ I brought a friend



CHILD'S NAME _____

GRADE _____

PARENT SIGNATURE _____

OUR CORE COMPETENCIES

CENTRAL BELIEFS

Authority of the Bible (2 Timothy 3:16-17)
I believe the Bible is the Word of God and has the right to command my belief and action.

Church (Ephesians 4:15-16)
I believe the church is God's primary way to accomplish His purposes on earth today.

Eternity (John 14:1-4)
I believe there is a heaven and a hell and that Jesus Christ is returning to judge the earth and to establish His eternal kingdom.

The Holy Spirit (Romans 8:9)
I believe the Holy Spirit convicts, calls, converts and changes me as a child of God.

Humanity (John 3:16)
I believe all people are loved by God and need Jesus Christ as their Savior.

Identity in Christ (John 1:12)
I believe I am significant because of my position as a child of God.

Jesus Christ (Hebrews 1:1-4)
I believe Jesus Christ is the Son of God who became man, died for sinners and rose from the dead.

Life Purpose (Acts 20:24)
I believe I am a steward of God's resources and have been redeemed to participate in His Kingdom purposes for His glory.

Personal God (Psalm 121:1-2)
I believe God is involved in and cares about my daily life.

Salvation by Grace (Ephesians 2:8-9)
I believe a person comes into a right relationship with God by His grace, through faith in Jesus Christ.



CENTRAL VIRTUES

Love (1 John 4:10-12)
I sacrificially and unconditionally love and forgive others.

Joy (John 15:11)
I have inner contentment and purpose in spite of my circumstances.

Peace (Philippians 4:6-7)
I am free from anxiety because things are right between God, myself and others.

Patience (Proverbs 14:29)
I take a long time to overheat and endure patiently under the unavoidable pressures of life.

Kindness/Goodness (1 Thessalonians 5:15)
I choose to do the right things in my relationships with others

Faithfulness (Proverbs 3:3-4)
I have established a good name with God and with others based on my long-term loyalty to those relationships.

Gentleness (Philippians 4:5)
I am thoughtful, considerate and calm in dealing with others.

Self-Control (Titus 2:11-13)
I have the power, through Christ, to control myself.

Grace (Colossians 3:13)
I demonstrate forgiveness, mercy and generosity to others, even when they have offended me.

Hope (1 Peter 1:3-5)
I have a growing anticipation of God's promises and my secure eternity with Him.

Humility (Philippians 2:3-4)
I choose to esteem others above myself.



CENTRAL PRACTICES

Bible Study (Hebrews 4:12)
I study the Bible to know God, the truth, and to find direction for my daily life.

Biblical Community (Acts 2:44-47)
I fellowship with other Christians to accomplish God's purposes in my life, others' lives, and in the world.

Compassion (Psalm 82:3-4)
I seek to serve the last, the least and the lost in my community.

Disciple-Making (2 Timothy 2:2)
I multiply godly beliefs, virtues and practices in others to encourage their spiritual growth in Christ.

Evangelism (Acts 1:8)
I share Jesus with others through personal proclamation and demonstration of the gospel.

Generosity (2 Corinthians 9:6-11)
I gladly give my resources to fulfill God's purposes.

Prayer (Psalm 66:16-20)
I pray to God to know Him, to lay my request before Him and to find direction for my daily life.

Single-Mindedness (Matthew 6:33)
I focus on God and His priorities for my life.

Spiritual Gifts (Romans 12:4-6)
I know and use my spiritual gifts to accomplish God's purposes.

Worship (Psalm 95:1-7)
I worship God for who He is and what He has done for me.

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