
INTERNATIONAL TRAINING AND EQUIPPING MINISTRIES
Institute in the Foundations of Church Leadership
ITEM Ministries

LESSONS FOR LEADERS FROM 1 TIMOTHY

I. Greeting (1:1-2)

II. Negative Instructions: Stop the False Teachers (1:3-20)

- A. Warning against false teachers (1:3-11)
 - 1. Confront false teachers (1:3)
 - 2. False teachers do not use the law properly (1:3b-4)
 - a. They teach false doctrine, promote disagreements. (v. 3b-5)
 - b. They have left the principle of love (1:5-6)
 - c. They want to teach God's law but don't understand it (1:7)
 - 3. The law was written for those who oppose what the Bible teaches. (1:8-11)
- B. Paul's was saved by God's grace which is how anyone must be saved. (1:12-17)
- C. Fight to protect the truth of God's Word. (1:18-20)
 - 1. Hold onto your faith, and a clean conscience (1:19)
 - 2. Some don't hold onto their faith, and a clean conscience, and their faith ends up ruined. (v. 20-21)

III. Positive Instructions: Repair the church (2:1-6:10)

- A. Restore proper order in the church (2:1-3:16)
 - 1. Guidelines for public worship (2:1-15)
 - a. Guidelines for public prayer (2:1-7)
 - 1) Men are to pray in a holy manner (2:8)
 - 2) Women (2:9-15)
 - a) Are to dress modestly, do good deeds (2:9-10)
 - b) Are to be learners not the teachers in public worship (2:11-12)
 - This limitation goes back to Adam and Eve, before culture was formed (2:13-14)
 - The woman's reputation is saved by their act of giving birth to children who end up living for Jesus Christ. (2:15)
 - 2. Instructions on church leadership (3:1-13)
 - a. Qualifications for overseers (3:1-7)
 - Note: According to 1 Pet. 5:1-2, Acts 20:17, 28 an overseer is the same person as the pastor, and the elder
 - Therefore, these qualifications apply to pastors, and elders.
 - b. Qualifications for deacons (3:8-10, 12-13)
 - c. Qualifications for deacon's wives or female deacons (this could be interpreted either way).
 - 3. The book of 1 Timothy is to help us understand how we should conduct ourselves in the church. (3:14)
- B. We are to be guardians of the truth in the church. (4:1-16)
 - 1. Guard the truth when people are falling away from the truth, and following false doctrines which are being promoted by demons. (4:1-5)
 - a. These false teachers are hypocrites, and liars. (4:2)
 - b. They tell people to live by laws not in the Bible. (4:3)

2. Our role as guardians of the truth (4:6-16)
 - a. We should point out lies, and false doctrines. (4:6)
 - b. Avoid godless stories (4:7a)
 - c. Train ourselves to be godly (4:7b)
 - d. Command and teach what Paul told Timothy (4:11)
 - e. Be an example in the way we speak, the way we love, in our faith, and in our purity. (4:12)
 - f. The preacher is to read the Word of God to his church, explain it (teach it), and apply it (preach it, exhort). (4:13)
 - g. Be diligent in these things (4:15)
 - h. Watch your life, and what you teach very closely. (4:16)
- C. We are to deal properly with all groups in the church (5:1-6:10)
 1. Treat older men, and women as if they were your mother, and father. Treat younger men, and younger women as if they were your brothers, and sisters. (5:1-2)
 2. Different widows require different treatment. (5:3-16)
 - Note: Widows who are “really in need,” or “widows in deed” refers to widows without any living children, or grandchildren to take care of them. These widows are the responsibility of the church.
 - a. Widows should be taken care of by their children, and grandchildren. (5:3-8)
 - Note: The widow who is put on the list, is a widow who has no family who is taking care of her. She is put on the church’s list of widows the church is assisting.
 - b. A widow can be put on the list of those the church is taking care of if she is over sixty years old, has been faithful to her husband, and is known for doing good deeds. (5:9-10)
 - c. Younger widows, who are under 60 years old, should remarry, and let her new husband take care of her. (5:11-16)
 3. Elders are to be held accountable for their actions. (5:17-25)
 - Note: As we pointed out earlier, elders, pastors, and overseers are the same men. So when these verses talk about elders, they also refer to pastors.
 - a. The pastor who leads the church well, and who preaches, and teaches the Bible well, is worthy of double honor, which means he should be paid well. But this applies only to those who rule the church well, and preaches and teaches well. (5:17-18)
 - b. To accuse a pastor of living in sin, there must be two or three eye-witnesses. (5:19)
 - c. If a pastor is living in sin, and two or three witnesses confront him, and he continues to live in sin, he is to be rebuked publicly (5:20)
 - d. When picking new elders, do not be partial, and do not choose someone too quickly. (5:22)
 - e. Choose men who have good reputations. (5:24-25)
 4. Slaves (they would be like employees today) are to respect their masters (we call them employers today) so that God will not be slandered by the employees disrespect. This is especially true is their employee is a Christian. (6:1-2)
 5. Characteristics of false teachers (6:3-10)
 - a. They are self-centered, and has an unhealthy interest in controversy. (6:3-4)
 - b. They see religion, and acting godly as a way to get money. (6:5)
 - 1) Contentment protects someone from the evil which comes from the love of money. (6:6-8)
 - 2) The love of money is the root of all kinds of evil. (6:9-10)

IV. Personal Instructions: Pursue Godliness (6:11-21)

- A. Fight the good fight, which is fighting to preserve the truth of God's Word (6:11-16)
 - 1. Pursue righteousness (6:11)
 - 2. Fight the good fight, and take hold of eternal life. (6:11-12)
 - 3. Keep this command without sinning, or without even being blamed for sin. (6:13-14)
 - 4. Instructions for those who are wealthy
 - a. To put their hope in God, not their money. (6:17)
 - b. To do good, and share with others (6:18-19)
- B. Guard the Word of God, which is the treasure that has been entrusted to you. (6:20-21)