

“Inspecting Our Foundation”

1 Timothy 1:3-11

(10-24-20)

WELCOME:

(1 minute)

INTRO:

(5 minutes)

- **Illustration:** Inspecting the foundation
 - Ponte Morandi Bridge (Italy)
 - **1967** -- Built
 - **1979** – Architect suggests renovations b/c of rust
 - **1990s** – 30% of support cables eroded
 - **2009** -- study stated high traffic volume & weight produced *"an intense degradation of the bridge structure subjected to considerable stress, with need for continuous maintenance."*
 - **2016** – Minister of Infrastructure & Transportation told repairs needed (x3)
 - **August 14, 2018** -- Bridge collapse
 - 43 killed, 16 injured
 - Due to structural weakness
 - Discovered cables *"gave way explosively due to corrosion and damage."*
 - **Q:** What's just as important as laying a foundation?
 - **A:** Ensuring it **is built to last!**

- Q: How?
 - Acknowledge purpose
 - Build with intentionality
 - Inspect constantly
 - Calibrate correctly
- **Transition:** Not just *WHAT*, but *HOW*
 - Through Paul's instructions to Timothy found in this letter, we will see that *inspecting* our spiritual foundation is just as important as *laying* it.

CONTEXT & RECAP:

(4-5 minutes)

- **Where we started:** Greeting of 1 Timothy (v.1-2)
 - Paul was an Apostle
 - Paul pointed to Jesus & His authority
 - Paul appointed Timothy to serve/correct Ephesians
 - Paul "Laid the Foundation" for letter → **JESUS**
- **Where we are going:** Book Overview
 - False Teachers & Doctrinal importance
 - Instructions on Prayer
 - Roles/function of men and women
 - Leadership Qualifications
 - Spiritual Warfare
 - Honoring Leaders
 - Preserving witness
- **Where we are now:** Current Situation
 - False Teachers misleading Ephesians

- False Doctrine
- Fruitless Discussion
- Misuse of the Law
- Misunderstood [need for] Grace
- Missed mark completely → **JESUS!**
- **Purpose:** “Inspecting our foundation” (*hence title*)
- **Transition:** What our Foundation is **AND** how we know
 - (v.4) Foundation = God’s plan (e.g. knowing Jesus)
 - (v.5) Result = A Christ-like Love (e.g. our witness)

BIG IDEA:

(1 minute)

- **Big Idea:** Live on mission, lead with love, look to the Gospel
 - Followers of Christ are called to live on mission, lead with love, and look to the Gospel because Jesus has transformed us from the inside out.

PRAY:

(1 minute)

READ:

(1 minute)

- **Text:** 1 Timothy 1:3-11

3 As I urged you when I went to Macedonia, remain in Ephesus so that you may instruct certain people not to teach false doctrine **4** or to pay attention to myths and endless genealogies. These promote empty speculations rather than God’s plan, which operates by faith. **5** Now the goal of our instruction is love that comes from a pure heart, a good conscience, and a sincere faith. **6** Some have departed from these and turned aside to fruitless discussion. **7** They want to be teachers of the law, although they don’t

understand what they are saying or what they are insisting on. **8** But we know that the law is good, provided one uses it legitimately. **9** We know that the law is not meant for a righteous person, but for the lawless and rebellious, for the ungodly and sinful, for the unholy and irreverent, for those who kill their fathers and mothers, for murderers, **10** for the sexually immoral and males who have sex with males, for slave traders, liars, perjurers, and for whatever else is contrary to the sound teaching **11** that conforms to the gospel concerning the glory of the blessed God, which was entrusted to me.

PREVIEW:

(1 minute)

- **3 Main Points:**

- 1 - **Christians are to *live on mission***
- 2 - **Christians are to *lead with love***
- 3 - **Christians are to *look to the Gospel***

PILLAR 1:

(10 minutes)

- **Live on mission**
 - **(v.3)** → Paul tells Timothy to “remain in Ephesus”
 - To live among the Ephesians
 - To set an example for the Ephesians
 - To invest his life in the Ephesians
 - **(v.3)** → Timothy is to “instruct the Ephesians”
 - Called to a specific task (*correct*)
 - Given authority to enforce task (*instruct*)
 - Equipped to complete task (*lead*)
 - **(v.3-4)** → 2 *Groups* Mentioned & Addressed
 - False Teachers vs. Vulnerable Hearers

- v.3 → “to teach false doctrine”
 - v.4 → “to pay attention to...”
- v.3-4) → 2 Errors Mentioned & Addressed
 - Proclaiming false doctrine
 - Promoting fruitless discussion
 - False Teachers speak for self-gain & fame
 - Hearers listen & drift unknowingly
 - **BOTH** hinder the Christian walk
 - **BOTH** demean Jesus’ command (disciple)
 - **BOTH** “promote speculation rather than God’s plan” (v.4)
- Keep the main thing, the main thing → **JESUS!**
 - **WHY:** (1) You grow & (2) you help others
- **Illustration:** Learning to tie a knot
 - Father – Son Relationship
 - Son unsure how to tie a knot correctly
 - Father first shows son
 - Father then helps son
 - Son then practices w/ pointers from Father
 - Son finally equipped to tie a knot
 - Son helps friends who are unsure
- **Application:**
 - Must watch our lives b/c what we say/do impacts our witness to those around us (1 Tim. 4:16)
 - “Empty Speech” is **NOT** neutral, it is negative & deterring
 - We either gather or scatter → (Matthew 12:30)

READ: *“Anyone who is not with me is against me, and anyone who does not gather with me scatters.”* – Jesus

PILLAR 2:

(12 minutes)

- **Lead with love**
 - **(v.5)** → The goal/purpose is **LOVE**
 - To be set apart from the world
 - To set an example to the world
 - To make Jesus known around the world
 - **John 13:35** → *“By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you **love** one another.”*
 - What is Love?
 - **Pure Heart**
 - Heart = whole person (inside & out)
 - Contextual for Jew & Gentile
 - Total Devotion/surrender to Jesus
 - **Good Conscience**
 - Conscience = (**READ BELOW**)

“The conscience is a built-in warning system that signals us when something we have done is wrong. The conscience is to our souls what pain sensors are to our bodies: it inflicts distress, in the form of guilt, whenever we violate what our hearts tell us is right.” — John MacArthur, The Book on Leadership, p.78

- Conscience can be seared/influenced (1 Cor. 8)
- “Good” = Focused on Christ (1 Peter 3:15-16)
- **Sincere Faith**
 - “Sincere” comes from Spanish “sin cera” = w/o wax (sculptures), solid -- no holes
 - Resting fully in Jesus
- What produces Love?
 - LOVE = Belief + Behavior
 - Made possible only through **JESUS!**
- What this Love is:
 - Sign of Christ-like growth → Sanctification
 - Builds integrity & character
 - Love = Desire + Obedience (John 15:9-11)

READ: ⁹ “As the Father has **loved** me, I have also **loved** you. Remain in my **love**. ¹⁰ If you keep my commands you will remain in my **love**, just as I have kept my Father’s commands and remain in his **love**. ¹¹ “I have told you these things so that my joy may be in you and your joy may be complete.

- What Love is NOT:
 - Mere feeling
 - Sign of weakness
- (v.6) → Some have departed from this for fruitless discussion

- “Departed and Turned aside” = mistakenly OR intentionally
 - B/c Jesus was not their main priority
- **Illustration:** Cattle brand/earmark
 - All cows are cows & look similar
 - Owner puts mark on his cows to identify
 - Others recognize & acknowledge ownership too
- **Application:**
 - **Q:** Does your life reveal Christ to others?
 - **Q:** Do you know AND belong to Jesus, or just know about Jesus?
 - **Q:** Are you earmarked by Jesus – Does your life resemble His love and heart transformation?

PILLAR 3:

(10 minutes)

- Look to the Gospel
 - (v.7) Teaching w/o understanding
 - ...
 - (v.8) The Law points to the Gospel
 - ...
 - (v.9-11) Can't outrun need for Grace
 - 10-Commandments referenced
 - All-encompassing (Mosaic Law +)
 - **EXAMPLE:** Rich Young Ruler (**Matthew 19:20-22**)

READ: ²⁰ "I have kept all these,"^[d] the young man told him. "What do I still lack?" ²¹ "If you want to be perfect,"^[e] Jesus said to him, "go, sell your belongings and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven. Then come, follow me." ²² When the young man heard that, he went away grieving, because he had many possessions.

- **Illustration:** ...
 - ...
- **Application:**
 -

RECAP:

(1 minute)

- **3 Main Points:** Christians are to...
 - 1 – **Live on mission**
 - 2 - **Lead with love**
 - 3 - **Look to the Gospel**

CLOSE:

(2 minutes)

- Following Paul & Timothy's directions, we must be intentional to inspect our foundation (e.g. Life and relationship with Jesus)
 - **Q:** Does your life exude Christ-like love?
 - **Q:** Are you distracted by "empty speech"?
 - **Q:** Are YOU distracting others with "empty speech"?
- As Christians, we are called to be leaders – Disciple Makers – who, like Timothy, invest our lives in others to aid in pointing them toward Jesus.

PRAY:

(1 minute)