

1 Timothy 1:3-7
Halting Heterodoxy

In Ephesus ...

- I. Stop False Teachers
 - A. Single Them Out

 - B. Know Their Errors

 - C. Beware of Their Character
- II. Guard the Truth
 - A. Stewarded by God

 - B. Motivated by Love

 - C. And Good Character

... and everywhere.

Children, Listen ...

1. Why was it so important that Timothy put a stop to people who were teaching things that were against the Bible?

2. What is the best way to tell if a pastor or teacher is telling the truth about what the Bible says?

3. Which is the loving way to tell people what the Bible says?
 - a. Only tell them the happy parts of the Bible

 - b. Tell them the whole truth that the Bible tells

 - c. Make up things that make Bible stories more fun

Soul Mates

Sadly, it is understandable that sound doctrine and love are sometimes seen as mutually exclusive. Sometimes dogmatism on even Biblical issues can be devoid of charity. That was certainly one of the problems with the troublemakers Paul refers to in our passage. Not only was their teaching askew and vain, their motives were messed up. They lacked love, their wills were corrupt, and their “faith” was illegitimate. They were bad guys. But we all need to take care, and make sure that our motive for defending and declaring the truth is driven by love and with pure intentions. We must adamantly hold to the sound doctrines of Scripture, but cold dogmatism is not only wrong, it is counterproductive to our Christian witness. Consider the very motive behind God giving us His Word, and for that matter for sending His Son – you may think of numerous reasons – but it is clear, the motive behind it is love. Let the little phrase “speaking the truth in love,” always guide our interaction with others, especially when it comes to speaking the Word and sharing the precious Gospel of Jesus. Truth and Love are inseparable soul mates that serve together for the glory of God and the good of others.