

13 - 1 Timothy 1:10-11 - 2019-07-21

## INTRODUCTION

In this letter, which we call 1 Timothy, sent to the disciples of Jesus Christ in the city of Ephesus long ago, our Lord's apostle Paul teaches us how we ought to conduct ourselves in the household of God, which is the church of the living God.

The first subject the apostle brings up is the church's doctrine. In the place where we have arrived in our study through the letter, the apostle uses the phrase "sound doctrine," or "whole teaching." It is of primary importance, in our conduct as members of God's household, that we take care to maintain sound doctrine.

These weeks I've been speaking to you about that subject, looking with you at sound doctrine from various vantage points, so as to get as full an understanding as possible what sound doctrine is, since it is of such great importance to us.

We have seen that doctrine is simply what the church teaches and learns. It is sound doctrine or wholesome teaching when it is healthy: both healthy itself because it is whole and uncorrupted, and healthy in its spiritual effects on those who teach it and learn it.

We learned last time that doctrine is sound doctrine when it is not made dubious by being based on man-made words, but is known to be the true gospel of Jesus Christ because it is firmly based on the bible, the word of God.

Today we take another look at what "sound doctrine" is. My approach today is to see what things the bible says go against sound doctrine, and what things go with sound doctrine. Then we'll look at another example of sound doctrine, as we did last time.

## TEXT

1 Timothy 1:8-10; Titus 2:1

## BODY

Understand better what sound doctrine is

- I. By Seeing What Is Against It: All Immoral Conduct; All Breaking of the Commandments (1 Tim 1:10b)  
*1 Timothy 1:10 . . . and if there is any other thing that is **contrary** to sound doctrine*
  - A. KJV, ESV, NKJV all say “contrary to”
  - B. Concept: Isn’t it true that you can understand what something is by what is against it?
    1. e.g. There’s a bill before Congress
      - a) some groups have lined up against it
        - (1) the environmental extremists are against it
        - (2) Planned Parenthood is against it
        - (3) the gun control groups are against it
        - (4) it is very unpopular in New York and Massachusetts
        - (5) La Raza is against it
        - (6) the Southern Poverty Law Center is against it
        - (7) the government employees union is against it
        - (8) many Hollywood stars have spoken out against it
      - b) even without knowing what the bill is, do you have some idea of what it is like?
  - C. All these things are against the moral law; they are also “contrary to sound doctrine.”
  - D. The law and sound doctrine, then, must be compatible with each other, but lawbreaking is incompatible with both.
  - E. So, sound doctrine is teaching that is in accord with the moral law, the ten commandments, love for God and love for your neighbor

Immorality, all and any breaking of God’s commandments is against sound doctrine.

Understand better what sound doctrine is

II. By What Fits With It: All Moral Conduct; All Good Works

*Titus 2:1 But as for you, speak the things which are **proper** for sound doctrine:*

A. Concept: Isn't it true that you can understand what something is by what fits with it

1. you know the shape of a puzzle piece by seeing the pieces next to it
2. you see the shape of the knight in the suit of armor

B. Words to express this

1. it fits
  - a) or it is fitted; or needs to be fitted
  - b) a fitting room
  - c) an athlete or soldier is fit (for what he needs to do)
2. it becometh
  - a) it is becoming
3. it is proper
4. it is appropriate
5. it accords with

C. Paul's use of this same word to describe Christian conduct

1. Conduct that is NOT characterized by immorality is fitting for saints  
*Ephesians 5:3-4 But fornication and all uncleanness or covetousness, let it not even be named among you, as is **fitting** for saints; (4) neither filthiness, nor foolish talking, nor coarse jesting, which are **not fitting**, but rather giving of thanks.*

- a) KJV: becometh
- b) NKJV: is fitting
- c) ESV: is proper
- d) NIV: these are improper

2. Conduct that IS characterized by good works is fitting for those who profess godliness

*1 Timothy 2:8-10 I desire therefore that the men pray everywhere, lifting up holy hands, without wrath and doubting; (9) in like manner also, that the women adorn themselves in modest apparel, with propriety and moderation, not with braided hair or gold or pearls or costly clothing, (10) but, which is **proper** for women professing godliness, with good works.*

- a) KJV: becometh
- b) NKJV, ESV: is proper
- c) NIV: appropriate

3. so, conduct is fitting if
  - a) negatively, if it is not characterized by immorality
  - b) affirmatively, if it is characterized by good works
- D. Specific statement of what is fitted to sound doctrine:

*Titus 2:1 But as for you, speak the things which are proper for sound doctrine:*

  1. Titus 2:2 that the older men be sober, reverent, temperate, sound in faith, in love, in patience;
  2. Titus 2:3 the older women likewise, that they be reverent in behavior, not slanderers, not given to much wine, teachers of good things--
  3. Titus 2:4-5 that they admonish the young women to love their husbands, to love their children, (5) to be discreet, chaste, homemakers, good, obedient to their own husbands, that the word of God may not be blasphemed.
  4. Titus 2:6 Likewise, exhort the young men to be sober-minded,
  5. Titus 2:7-8 in all things showing yourself to be a pattern of good works; in doctrine showing integrity, reverence, incorruptibility, (8) sound speech that cannot be condemned, that one who is an opponent may be ashamed, having nothing evil to say of you.
  6. Titus 2:9-10 Exhort bondservants to be obedient to their own masters, to be well pleasing in all things, not answering back, (10) not pilfering, but showing all good fidelity, that they may adorn the doctrine of God our Savior in all things.

Immorality, all and any breaking of God's commandments is against sound doctrine.  
All moral conduct, all good works, fit with sound doctrine.

Understand better what sound doctrine is by

III. By Seeing Another Example of It

A. Matthew 20:25-28

1. Matthew 20:28 just as the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and **to give [G1325 *didomi*]** His life a **ransom [G3083 *lutron*]** for many."
2. before going any further with this, sinners, take that as the best possible news to hear

B. 1 Timothy 2:6

1. 1 Timothy 2:6 who **gave [G1325 *didomi*]** Himself a **ransom [G487 *antilutron*]** for **all**, to be testified in due time,
2. see 1 Timothy 2:1-2 that the good work of praying for all men is in keeping with this sound doctrine, and based on it

C. Titus 2:11-14

1. Titus 2:11-14 For the grace of God that brings salvation has appeared to all men, (12) teaching us that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously, and godly in the present age, (13) looking for the blessed hope and glorious appearing of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ, (14) who **gave [G1325 *didomi*]** Himself for us, that He might **redeem [G3084 *lutroo*]** us from every lawless deed and purify for Himself His own special people, zealous for good works.
2. see that Titus 2:1-10, which we looked at a moment ago, is based on this sound doctrine

## CONCLUSION

Immorality, all and any breaking of God's commandments is against sound doctrine.  
All moral conduct, all good works, fit with sound doctrine.

Sound doctrine or wholesome teaching is what the church teaches when that doctrine it is healthy: both healthy itself because it is whole and uncorrupted, and healthy in its spiritual effects on those who teach it and learn it; when it is not made dubious by being based on man-made words, but is known to be the true gospel of Jesus Christ because it is firmly based on the bible, the word of God; when it is against all disobedience to God's commandments, and is in keeping with all obedience to God, all doing of good works.

Of course we all long to be more like Jesus Christ in how we think, speak, act. We want to be a good influence on our children. We want to be separate from the world morally, living holy unto the Lord. There certainly is help in God's law, which shows us how to act in love, shows us what conduct is His delight. But there is help in sound doctrine of salvation in Jesus Christ, because moral conduct is fitting for that sound doctrine, and, indeed is based on it for the disciples of Jesus Christ. We strive to walk in righteousness not only because it is commanded us in God's law, but because it is fitting with what we are taught of how He has saved us by the shedding of His own blood on the cross for our sins. Now we walk as is fitting for such wholesome teaching, such sound doctrine.

**Example 3 of “Sound Doctrine”: Christ Jesus gave Himself as a ransom.**

1 Timothy 2:6 who **gave [G1325 *didomi*]** Himself a **ransom [G487 *antilutron*]** for **all**, to be testified in due time,

Titus 2:11-14 For the grace of God that brings salvation has appeared to all men, (12) teaching us that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously, and godly in the present age, (13) looking for the blessed hope and glorious appearing of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ, (14) who **gave [G1325 *didomi*]** Himself for us, that He might **redeem [G3084 *lutroo*]** us from every lawless deed and purify for Himself His own special people, zealous for good works.

Matthew 20:28 just as the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and **to give [G1325 *didomi*]** His life a **ransom [G3083 *lutron*]** for **many [G4183 *polus*]**."

Note what comes after “for”

1 Timothy 2:6 for all

Titus 2:14 for us

Matthew 20:28 for many

Call to Worship: Psalm 106:1

Scripture Reading: Psalm 23

Sermon: “Sound Doctrine Part 3: What Is Against It and With It”

Benediction: Psalm 106:48