

WHAT'S LOVE GOT TO DO WITH IT?

1 Timothy 1:2-11

Radically Ordinary

What is the greatest commandment?

“Love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul and with all your mind. This is the first and greatest commandment. And the second is like it :‘Love your neighbor as yourself.’ All the w Law and the Prophets hand on these two commandments.”

Matthew 22:37-39

What does this mean in down to earth terms?

Paul's letters to Timothy represent a pattern whereby one who is a verifiable radical for Christ offers personal and practical advice to his "true son in the faith" who is, by any standard, quite ordinary.

1 Timothy 1

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

³ As I urged you when I went into Macedonia, stay there in Ephesus so that you may command certain men not to teach false doctrines any longer ⁴ nor to devote themselves to myths and endless genealogies. These promote controversies rather than God's work—which is by faith.

1 Timothy 1

⁵ The goal of this command is love, which comes from a pure heart and a good conscience and a sincere faith. ⁶ Some have wandered away from these and turned to meaningless talk. ⁷ They want to be teachers of the law, but they do not know what they are talking about or what they so confidently affirm.

The Goals

1. Genuine love

Comes from:

a pure heart

a good conscience

a sincere faith

Rooted in:

Grace of God

Mercy of God

Peace with God

The Goals

1. Genuine love
2. Avoidance of senseless preoccupations (irrelevant speculation)

Timothy is under strict orders to confront such

Love may require the man or woman of God to stand against the tide even within the sphere of the local church.

The ultimate challenge of dogma is practical godliness – not speculation

1 Timothy 1

⁸ We know that the law is good if one uses it properly. ⁹ We also know that law is made not for the righteous but for lawbreakers and rebels, the ungodly and sinful, the unholy and irreligious; for those who kill their fathers or mothers, for murderers, ¹⁰ for adulterers and perverts, for slave traders and liars and perjurers—and for whatever else is contrary to the sound doctrine ¹¹ that conforms to the glorious gospel of the blessed God, which he entrusted to me.

What is the right role of the Law?

1. To restrain individuals from trespassing into forbidden territory.
2. To be a mirror that reveals sin and leads us to Christ.
3. To be a rule or guide that points out those works that are pleasing to God.

Who is abusing the law?

1. Lawbreakers and rebels

Those who willingly break the law and refuse to acknowledge its authority

2. Ungodly and sinful

Outwardly disobedient who “wantonly” disregard God’s will for their lives

3. Unholy and Irreligious

Those who treated nothing as sacred

Where is Paul Coming From?

Honor your father and your mother	Kill fathers and mothers
You shall not murder	Kill fathers and mothers Murderers
You shall not commit adultery	Adulterers Perverts
You shall not steal	Slave traders
You shall not give false testimony	Liars and perjurers
You shall not covet	Whatever is contrary to sound doctrine

What's the Big Deal?

1. The gospel is all about the glory of God
2. The gospel comes for God
3. This gospel has been:
 - A. Entrusted to Paul
 - B. Entrusted to Timothy
 - C. Entrusted to us

So What

- How is Paul's view of love and its requirements different from the views of our present culture?
- What "senseless" arguments are we tempted to focus on that keep us from focusing on the work of the gospel?
- Do you have a high view of the 10 commandments?

So What

- How is Paul's view of love and its requirements different from the views of our present culture?
- What "senseless" arguments are we tempted to focus on that keep us from focusing on the work of the gospel?
- Do you have a high view of the 10 commandments? What difference does your view make in practical terms?