

August 31, 2025
Sermon Notes: Level Check

Introduction

1. Labor Day is a time of rest and reset.
2. Transition to Scripture focus: 1 Timothy 1:3–11.

Background of 1 Timothy

1. Paul writes to Timothy, a young leader in Ephesus.
2. Timothy faces leadership challenges in the church.
3. Leadership is central to discipleship, and discipleship requires leadership.

Leadership and Influence

1. Paul urges Timothy rather than commands him.
2. True leadership is influence, not manipulation.
3. Jesus modeled servant leadership, even to Judas.
4. Warning: Leadership through fear is manipulation, not Christlike influence.

Challenge of False Teaching

1. The early church already faced doctrinal attacks.
2. Myths (from Greco-Roman culture) attempted to reduce Jesus to “story.”
3. Genealogies (from Jewish culture) elevated heritage and law above grace.
4. False teaching seeks to dilute sound doctrine.
5. The gospel rests on the historical reality of Jesus’s life, death, and resurrection.

The Goal of Instruction

1. Paul redirects Timothy toward the aim: faith working through love.
2. Leadership is not about chasing speculation but affirming truth.
3. Love is the core of discipleship because God Himself is love.

Three Levels of Leadership Love (Heart Check)

1. **Pure Heart** – motives aligned with God’s righteousness.
2. **Good Conscience** – integrity between inner life and outward actions.
3. **Sincere Faith** – genuine trust in Christ, producing intimacy and love.

Application for Discipleship

1. Discipleship is investing spiritually in others.
2. Protect truth and focus on Christ-centered teaching.
3. Regularly evaluate heart, conscience, and faith.
4. Stay rooted in Jesus, the foundation of faith and the goal of doctrine.

Conclusion

1. Leadership requires conviction and courage.
2. Discipleship flourishes when rooted in love, truth, and faith.
3. Prayerful encouragement to continue pursuing Jesus and leading others well.