

SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION

Rick Henderson
1 Timothy 1



1. The series thesis for 1 Timothy is: We teach what we know but reproduce who we are. Have you ever been in an environment (eg. workplace, childhood upbringing) where what was being taught didn't match the culture of what was being modeled? How did you process that?
2. Pastor Rick talked about the inevitability that we will not always agree on the "non-essentials" of faith, but that we can experience unity in our diversity as the body of Christ as we prioritize our shared faith in Christ and our love for him and each other. If we bump up against disagreements in our discussions throughout this series, what will it look like for us to use those moments as opportunities to demonstrate our love for Christ and for each other?
3. The Ephesian church that Timothy was sent to lead struggled because of false teaching that resulted in division, disputes, and destroyed faith. Paul tells Timothy (vs. 3) to command certain people to not teach false doctrine and says that the goal of this is love, which comes from a pure heart and a good conscience and a sincere faith (vs. 5). How would that church have begun to experience greater love because of no longer tolerating false teaching?
4. Read verses 1 Timothy 1:12–17. Discuss the significance of Paul saying "I am the worst" of sinners rather than that he was. When Pastor Rick encouraged us to adopt the phrase, "I'll never be more disappointed in you than I am in me," what did that stir in you?
5. As you're looking at verses 12–17, notice how Paul models humility over his own sin, and more importantly, how he describes the impact of the gospel on his life. How might this have helped Timothy as he addressed the false teachers in his church? How might it help you as you interact with people inside and outside the Church this week?