

THE PASTORAL EPISTLES

God's Vision for the Church as His Faithful Family

**Week 2: The Problem:
The False Teachers & Their Doctrine**

Almighty God our Savior, you desire that none should perish, and you have taught us through your Son that there is a great joy in heaven over every sinner who repents: Grant that our hearts may ache for a lost and broken world. May your Holy Spirit work through our words, deeds, and prayers, that the lost may be found and the dead made alive, and that all your redeemed may rejoice around your throne, through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

COLLECT FOR
**A SPIRIT OF
EVANGELISM**

THE PROBLEM: FALSE TEACHERS & FALSE DOCTRINE

- **False Teachers & False Doctrine**
- **Healing the Rot**

FALSE TEACHERS & FALSE DOCTRINES

The Jewish Influence

The Dualistic Influence

The Source of the Heresy

The Fruit of the Heresy

Under Four Headings:

- The Jewish Influence on the Heresy
- The Dualistic influence on the Heresy
- The Source of the Heresy
- The Fruit of the Heresy

FALSE TEACHERS & FALSE DOCTRINES

> The Jewish Influence

The Dualistic Influence

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The Jewish Influence

1 Timothy 1.3–7; Titus 1.10, 14

I urge you, as I did when I was on my way to Macedonia, to remain in Ephesus so that you may instruct certain people not to teach any different doctrine, and not to occupy themselves with myths and endless genealogies that promote speculations rather than the divine training that is known by faith...some people have deviated from [the faith] and turned to meaningless talk, desiring to be teachers of the law, without understanding either what they are saying or things about which they make assertions.

– 1 Timothy 1.3–7

There are also many rebellious people, idle talkers and deceivers, especially those of the circumcision...rebuke them sharply, so that they may become sound in the faith, not paying attention to Jewish myths or to commandments of those who reject the truth.

– Titus 1.10, 14

FALSE TEACHERS
& FALSE DOCTRINES

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The Jewish Influence

Examples of Jewish and Mystic Influence

- Members of “the Circumcision.”
(Titus 1.10)
- Sources for their teaching: (1 Tim 1.4)
 - Old Testament Scripture
 - Jewish Myths and Genealogies
 - Other extra-biblical sources
- Desired to be teachers of the Law but did not understand what they taught.
(1 Tim 1.7)

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The Proper Use of the Law: 1 Timothy 1.8–11

We know that the law is good, if one uses it legitimately. This means understanding that the law is laid down not for the innocent, but for the lawless and disobedient, for the godless and sinful, for the unholy and profane, for those who kill their father and mother, for murderers, fornicators, sodomites, slave traders, liars, perjurers, and whatever else is contrary to the sound teaching that conforms to the glorious gospel of the blessed God, which he entrusted to me.

FALSE TEACHERS
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The Proper Use of the Law

- Reveals our ungodliness, but...
- ...cannot produce godliness in us.
- Describes life as God intends for it to be lived; life that leads to flourishing.
- Drives us to Christ.
(John Chrysostom, Homily II, NPNF 1/13)

FALSE TEACHERS & FALSE DOCTRINES

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The Dualistic Influence

- Dualism is any system of philosophy or belief that posits a distinction between binary objects.
- Cf. Plato's philosophy of forms: body/soul; theory of forms.
- In extreme dualistic views the physical world is considered evil; the spiritual world considered good.

FALSE TEACHERS & FALSE DOCTRINES

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The Dualistic Influence

Dualistic Asceticism: 1 Timothy 4.3–5

[The false teachers] forbid marriage and demand abstinence from foods, which God created to be received with thanksgiving by those who believe and know the truth. For everything created by God is good, and nothing is to be rejected, provided it is sanctified by God's word and by prayer.

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Asceticism

- Asceticism is the practice of self-denial.
- Part of the Christian life:
“If any want to become my followers, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me.” (Matthew 16.24)
- Scriptural asceticism: give up good things for a time in order to rely on God.
- False teachers: abstention due to rejecting God’s creation as good.

FALSE TEACHERS
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The Goodness of Creation

1 Timothy 4.3–5

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The Goodness of Creation

Argument #1: God's Objective Word

[The false teachers]...demand abstinence from foods, which God created to be received with thanksgiving by those who believe and know the truth. For everything created by God is good, and nothing is to be rejected, [for] it is sanctified by God's word and by prayer.

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The Goodness of Creation

Argument #2: Subjective Conscience

[The false teachers]...demand abstinence from foods, which God created to be received with thanksgiving by those who believe and know the truth. For everything created by God is good, and nothing is to be rejected, [for] it is sanctified by God's word and by prayer.

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The Source of the Heresy

1 Timothy 4.1, 2

Now the Spirit expressly says that in the later times some will renounce the faith by paying attention to deceitful spirits and the teachings of demons, through the hypocrisy of liars whose consciences are seared with a hot iron.

FALSE TEACHERS & FALSE DOCTRINES

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> **The Source of the Heresy**

The Fruit of the Heresy

The Source of the Heresy

- Deceitful spirits & teaching of Demons
- “...whose consciences are seared with a hot iron.”
 - The false teachers are passive
 - Imagery: the branding of livestock by their owners
 - NEB:
“...*whose own conscience is branded with the devil’s sign*”
 - Cf. Revelation 13.11–18, “the mark of the beast”

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1 Timothy 6.3b-4

Whoever teaches [false doctrine] and does not agree with the sound words of our Lord Jesus Christ and the teaching that is in accordance with godliness is conceited, understanding nothing, and has a morbid craving for controversy and for disputes about words.

FALSE TEACHERS & FALSE DOCTRINES

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> **The Fruit of the Heresy**

The Fruit of the Heresy

Contentiousness and its Fruit

- Conceited/Arrogant (1 Tim 6.4a)
- “morbid curiosity for controversy and disputes about words” (1 Timothy 6.4b)
- 1 Corinthians 6.7

Why not rather be wronged? Why not rather be cheated?

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Contentiousness and its Fruit

- Divisiveness – Satan’s M.O.
 - Genesis 3 – Adam/Eve & God
 - Genesis 3 – Adam & Eve
 - Cain Murders Abel
 - Jacob & Esau
 - Jacob favors Joseph
 - The Kingdom of Israel Splits
 - Exile

FALSE TEACHERS
& FALSE DOCTRINES

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The Fruit of the Heresy

Contentiousness and its Fruit

- Unity – Jesus’ Prayer for the Church
- John 17.20–21

I ask not only on behalf of these but also on behalf of those who will believe in me through their word, that they may all be one. As you, Father, are in me and I am in you, may they also be in us, so that the world may believe that you have sent me.

FALSE TEACHERS
& FALSE DOCTRINES

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Contentiousness and its Fruit

- John 17.20–21

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- Unity & Mission

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The Fruit of the Heresy

Contentiousness and its Fruit

- Conceited/Arrogant (1 Tim 6.4a)
- “morbid curiosity for controversy and disputes about words” (1 Timothy 6.4b)
- 1 Corinthians 6.7
- “Constant frictions” – infected abrasions that cannot heal.
(Chrysostom)

HEALING THE ROT

- **The Goal of Rebuke**
- **St. Paul's Example**

HEALING THE ROT

> The Goal of Rebuke

St. Paul's Example

The Goal of Rebuke

Titus 1.13; 1 Timothy 1.3–5;

Rebuke [the false teachers] sharply, so that they may become sound in the faith.

– Titus 1.13

I urge you...to instruct certain people not to teach any different doctrine...the aim of such instruction is love that comes from a pure heart, a good conscience, and sincere faith.

– 1 Timothy 1.3–5

HEALING THE ROT

> The Goal of Rebuke

St. Paul's Example

The Goal of Rebuke

Contentiousness and its Fruit

- “...they become sound in the faith” (Titus 1.13)
- “...love, from a pure heart, a good conscience, and sincere faith” (1 Tim 1.5)

HEALING THE ROT

The Goal of Rebuke

> **St. Paul's Example**

St. Paul's Example

1 Timothy 1.12–14

I am grateful to Christ Jesus our Lord, who has strengthened me, because he judged me to be faithful and appointed me to his service, even though I was formerly a blasphemer, a persecutor, and a man of violence. But I received mercy because I acted ignorantly in unbelief, and the grace of our Lord overflowed for me with the faith and love that are in Christ Jesus.

HEALING THE ROT

The Goal of Rebuke

> **St. Paul's Example**

St. Paul's Example

1 Timothy 1.17

To the King of ages, immortal, invisible, the only God, be honor and glory forever and ever.

TODAY'S SOURCES

- Augustine, *On Christian Doctrine* (NPNF 1/2)
- John Chrysostom, Homily II, *Homilies on the First Epistle to Timothy* (NPNF 1/13)
- John Chrysostom, Homily XVII, (NPNF 1/13)
- Sufjan Stevens, “John Wayne Gacy, Jr.”, from the album *Illinoise*
- William D. Mounce, *Pastoral Epistles*