

Every Square Inch

Abraham Kuyper: “There is not a square inch in the whole domain of our human existence over which Christ, who is Sovereign over all, does not cry: Mine!”

- Colossians: All things created by Him and FOR Him. (Col. 1:16)
- SNAPSHOT: Christian truth claims, are not private preferences. You and I are called to graciously and lovingly stand firm one what God has said in every aspect of our lives— ESPECIALLY within the church.
- Jesus had taught a difficult saying and many disciples walked away because of His words.
 - (John 6:68)
 - Jesus asked: are you going too?
 - Peter replied, “Lord, to whom shall we go? You have words of eternal life.

1

Timothy, my message is from God: (vs. 1-2)

(I didn't just come up with this on my own.)

- (1) Apostle: (vs. 1)
 - Title of authority—over elders and deacons. Representative from God.
 - Paul is a **man “under orders.”**
- (2) We are Commanded by God, our Savior: (vs. 2)
 - From God our Savior, Christ Jesus our Hope
 - God the Father, Christ Jesus our Lord.
 - Messiah Jesus (rooted in history and promise of the Old Testament)
 - –Jesus' continued work.
- (3) Letter written to Timothy—would be read among the house churches.

2

Timothy, stop the twisted: (vs. 3-4)

(Remember why you are there)

(1) **Their day** (twisted beliefs and teaching):

- Teaching**: Strange doctrines
 - And Passing it on.
- Wrong Attention**: to myths, endless genealogies, etc. → creates pointless speculation.
- The Loss**: the administration of God that is by faith. (vs. 4) or another translation: “God’s redemptive plan that operates by faith.
 - NET translates*: “Such things promote useless speculations rather than God’s redemptive plan that operates by faith.”¹
 - sn** *God’s redemptive plan*.

The basic word (οἰκονομία, *oikonomia*) denotes the work of a household steward or manager or the arrangement under which he works: “household management.” As a theological term it is used of the order or arrangement by which God brings redemption through Christ (God’s “dispensation, plan of salvation” [Eph 1:10; 3:9]) or of human responsibility to pass on the message of that salvation (“stewardship, commission” [1 Cor 9:17; Eph 3:2; Col 1:25]). Here the former is in view (see the summary of God’s plan in 1 Tim 2:3–6; 2 Tim 1:9–10; Titus 3:4–7), and Paul notes the response people must make to God’s arrangement: It is “in faith” or “by faith.”²
- The goal**: The goal of our teaching or the aim of our instruction and ministry: **love**.
 - that comes from a pure heart, a good conscience, and a sincere faith**.³
 - tn** *Grk* “the instruction,” referring to orthodox Christian teaching and ministry in general, in contrast to that of the false teachers mentioned in 1:3–4.⁴

¹ Biblical Studies Press, *The NET Bible First Edition; Bible. English. NET Bible.; The NET Bible* (Biblical Studies Press, 2006), 1 Ti 1:4.

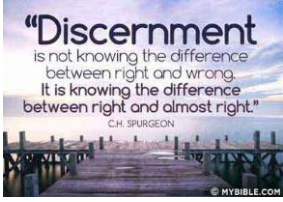
² Biblical Studies Press, *The NET Bible First Edition; Bible. English. NET Bible.; The NET Bible* (Biblical Studies Press, 2006).

³ Biblical Studies Press, *The NET Bible First Edition; Bible. English. NET Bible.; The NET Bible* (Biblical Studies Press, 2006), 1 Ti 1:5.

⁴ Biblical Studies Press, *The NET Bible First Edition; Bible. English. NET Bible.; The NET Bible* (Biblical Studies Press, 2006).

- e. **Quote:**
 “Paul’s instruction was designed to promote the most magnificent of virtues by maintaining the purity of the church’s teaching. God’s truth always purifies the human spirit, while error putrifies it.”⁵

(2) Christians are called to discernment:



- a. **Charles Spurgeon:** Discernment-
 “Discernment is **not** knowing the difference between right and wrong. It is knowing the difference between right and almost right.”
- b. **2 Timothy 3:16:**
 “All Scripture is inspired by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, for training in righteousness;”
- c. **Ephesians 4:14:**
 “...we are no longer to be children, tossed here and there by waves and carried about by every wind of doctrine, by the trickery of men, by craftiness in deceitful scheming;”
- d. **Galatians 6:1:**
 “Brethren, even **if anyone is caught in any trespass, you who are spiritual, restore such a one in a spirit of gentleness**; each one looking to yourself, so that you too will not be tempted.”
- e. **A CHALLENGE:** (Look for **yourself** how often God calls his people to recognize (judge) right vs. wrong teaching or ways.)
- f. **Judge vs. Discernment:**
- i. Matthew 7:1: “Do not judge so that you will not be judged.
 1. Matthew 7:5: “You hypocrite, **first take the log** out of your own eye, and **then you will see clearly to take the speck out of your brother’s eye.**
 2. This is hypocritical “**self-righteous**” judgments of others.
 - g. You can’t know what is good if you can’t discern between good and not good.

(3) Our Day’s Issue: God’s Authority (biblical authority) over “every square inch.”

- a. **Ex. The word “Love” is being applied to mean whatever anyone wants it to mean:**
- i. #love wins
 - ii. #love is love
- b. YOU CANNOT SEPARATE LOVE FROM TRUTH.
- c. **Discernment is REQUIRED** here for Christians:
- i. **Pressure is STRONG:**
 1. Ex. Talk show—(Ryan Anderson)—“are you going to tell her that she cannot love the woman she loves so deeply? How dare you? Who do you think you are?”
 2. Your job could be in danger here.
 - ii. **Biblically love can NEVER be separated from truth.**
 1. Ex. I am married. If I decide to “love” a woman in place of my wife, God does not call that love—He calls it adultery.
 - a. **Does He have the right to make such a pronouncement?**
 - i. **“Every Square Inch.”** – all things by Him, for Him.

⁵ A. Duane Litfin, “1 Timothy,” in *The Bible Knowledge Commentary: An Exposition of the Scriptures* (ed. J. F. Walvoord and R. B. Zuck; vol. 2; Wheaton, IL: Victor Books, 1985), 2731–732.

d. McManus: **Good Hypocrisy?**

"In recent times in our culture we have put an increasing value on authenticity and a decreasing focus on integrity. This is strongly influenced by a disdain for the pretentious and a longing for anything that is real...**When calling for authenticity, we need to take seriously the brokenness and sinfulness of the human heart.** If to be authentic means to be who we really are or to express what we really feel, the in most cases I'm going to vote for hypocrisy. **Our prisons are filled with men and women who acted on their feelings and impulses. If authenticity is about being true to yourself, these individuals should be our models of inspiration...**We don't want to think about it, and we certainly don't want to acknowledge it as true, but sometimes what's really inside of us is darker and uglier than what people see. If someone's honest feeling toward me is hatred, and he would like nothing more in the world than to bring my life to an end, I hope he will chose the way of hypocrisy. I want the person who is a thief at heart not to steal, even if he really wants to. I want the individual who's convinced he's in love with someone other than his wife to go against what his heart is telling him and to refuse to have an affair...Our claim that we are committed to being authentic can actually be a facade for self-indulgence...Authenticity can establish a self-righteousness that justifies abuse. Is it really OK to do something because you want to, to say something because you feel it?...**The first and most important step in the process of becoming genuinely authentic is to be once again authenticated by the original designer. This is a part of the divine side of human change. God desires to place within each of us a new heart, a heart that reflects him not only in action, but in desire.**

i. Love had better have discernment about the depravity of the human heart.

e. **Not surprising outside the church** (cf. Ephesians 2:1-9)

i. **The problem is that this belief is starting to be held WITHIN the church.**

ii. **CHRISTIANS STILL NEED DISCERNMENT.**

1. **Some things that are contrary to the freedom that is found in the Jesus.**

2. (You can't be saved from a sin you think is a good).

3. Billy Graham:

"We are concerned about offending everyone but God."

3

Timothy, the Law is good: (vs. 5-11)

(If it is used as it was designed).

(1) In the context:

a. The law was probably used as a tool for speculation.

(2) The law brings us low.

(3) The law is for whatever is contrary to the truth.

(4) The law reveals that we really do need a Savior.

(5) The law leads us to Jesus.

a. **Ex. Judge who recognized a childhood friend:**

i. Judge: Did you go to ___ middle school?

ii. Charged with burglary: "Oh my goodness. Oh my goodness....put his head down (**crying**)-- Oh my goodness..."

iii. Judge: "He was the nicest kid."

iv. (I really think the gentleman had to consider how far he had fallen.)

v. The LAW does this. It reveals our sin, convicts us of the truth.

(6) We are more sinful than we think:

"We are much more sinful than we thought, but God's mercy and grace is much greater than you ever dreamed!" ~ Liederbach.

Timothy, God's gospel is amazing: (vs. 12-17)

- (1) Glorious: Something that **blows** you away.
 - a. **Ex. a friend**, when his wife came around the corner in her wedding dress nearly fell down. He was BLOWN away.
 - i. What's the big deal?
 1. This girl is going to marry me.
 - ii. What's the big deal Paul? Why is the gospel glorious?
- (2) I was: A blasphemer, persecutor, violent (vs. 13) –stood by at Stephen's stoning.
- (3) But God: (cf. Eph. 2)
 - a. Show **mercy** (vs. 13)
 - i. Didn't get what he deserved, at all!
 - b. Given grace abundantly!
- (4) **Trustworthy statement Stephen**: Christ (Messiah) Jesus came into the world to save sinners—I am the worst.
 - a. Judging vs. truth
- (5) Summary: Timothy, God is merciful! God is glorious!
- (6) **Paul's response: awe** (vs. 17)
 - a. To the:
 - i. King eternal (Every square inch)
 - ii. Immortal (every square inch)
 - iii. Invisible
 - iv. The Only God (every square inch)
 - b. Be:
 - i. Honor and
 - ii. Glory
 - iii. Forever.
 - iv. Amen.
- (7) (vs. 18-20) Remember your calling Timothy:
 - a. Paul reminds Timothy to stand firm with the right heart and the right truth.

Summary:

- (1) Timothy, make sure you stop the twisted teaching that is going on in the church.
- (2) Timothy, God's gospel is amazing! I am still blown away, Timothy.
- (3) Timothy, stand firm on the truth.

Rosaria Butterfield: (see attached sheet)

"As a leftist lesbian professor, I despised Christians. Then I somehow became one."
<http://www.christianitytoday.com/ct/2013/january-february/my-train-wreck-conversion.html>

*"But when I came to Christ, I experienced what nineteenth-century Scottish theologian Thomas Chalmers called **the expulsive power of a new affection.**" At the time of my conversion, my lesbian identity and feelings did not vanish. As my union with Christ grew, the sanctification that it birthed put a wedge between my old self and my new one." ~ Rosaria Butterfield.*

Questions to consider:

- (1) Do you know Jesus?
 - a. Have you experienced the "expulsive power of a new affection in Jesus?"
 - b. Do you still carry the weight of your sin?
 - i. Come to Jesus. (Paul was worse than you. Jesus will save you.)
 - c. If you have, remember again how gracious God is.
- (2) Are you tempted to compromise on what God has said?
- (3) **If you were standing before God, what would He say you need to do in response to His word?**