

Study Guide for 1 Timothy 1:8-11

Major Premise: God's good Law must be used according to the Law as a restraint against wickedness and consistent with the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

Outline

- I. The Law Must Be Used According to the Law (vv. 8-9a)
- II. The Law Restrains Wickedness (vv. 9b-10)
- III. The Law is Consistent with the Gospel (v. 11)

Discussion Questions

1. The pastor mentions that he grew up in a tradition where the law was seen as an oppressor. How was the law viewed in your upbringing? How has your understanding of God's law changed over time?
2. The sermon states, "The law itself, everything that God has revealed as good and right and just comes from him." How does this perspective impact your view of God's commands?
3. Discuss the difference between how the church should use the law (to address inward character) and how the state should use it (to restrain external acts of wickedness). Why is this distinction important?
4. The pastor lists several sins that were punishable by death in the Old Testament. How do you reconcile these harsh punishments with your understanding of God's love and mercy?
5. How does teaching and following God's law make the church "the salt of the earth" and "the light of the world" as Jesus described?

6. The sermon emphasizes that love, good, and evil have definitions rooted in God's law. How does this contrast with popular cultural views on these concepts?

Questions for Personal Consideration

- I. How does understanding God's law as an expression of His character, rather than an external standard, change our perspective on obedience?
- II. In what ways might the church's neglect of teaching God's law contribute to moral relativism in society?
- III. How can we balance using the law to restrain wickedness with the grace and forgiveness emphasized in the gospel?
- IV. What are the potential consequences of having untrained or theologically undisciplined leaders in the church?
- V. How might our view of civil government change if we saw it as responsible for implementing God's law rather than human ideologies?
- VI. In what ways does modern humanism conflict with the biblical understanding of human nature and the need for God's law?
- VII. How can Christians effectively communicate the goodness of God's law in a culture that often views it as oppressive or outdated?
- VIII. What are some practical ways the church can teach and apply God's law without falling into legalism?

- IX. How does the concept of using the law 'lawfully' challenge or affirm your current understanding of its role in Christian life?

- X. In what ways might a proper understanding and application of God's law lead to human flourishing, both individually and societally?

Key Takeaways

1. Commit to studying one of God's laws each day this week. Reflect on how it reveals God's character and how it applies to your life.
2. Practice using God's law as the standard when addressing sin in your own life or when lovingly confronting a fellow believer.
3. Identify an area where you've been relying on your own understanding of right and wrong rather than God's law. Take steps to align your perspective with Scripture.
4. Pray for civil leaders to govern in accordance with God's law for the good of society.