

## GUARD THE GOSPEL

*1 Timothy 1: 3-7*

### SUMMARY ...

We go to great lengths to protect the things that are most precious to us. Whether it be our marriages, kids, or valuable possessions we do everything we can to protect them from danger. If that is true of earthly people and things, how much more should we be intentional to guard the gospel—the most precious truth in all the universe. This was Paul’s first command to Timothy: to guard the Gospel! Guarding the Gospel required Timothy to know two pieces of information. Guard from **who**, and knowing **how** to guard.

### REFLECT...

Who or what do you consider to be the most important people and things in your life? What do you do to guard them?

### LEARN: BIBLE STUDY and DISCUSSION...

1. Read [1 Timothy 1: 3-4](#); [6-7](#). Paul warns against internal threats to the Gospel, or ‘False Gospels’. What kind of problems arise from ‘False Gospels’? Can you think of any ‘False Gospels’ that emerge from within the church? How have you seen them manifest and what dangers did they pose?
2. Read [1 Timothy 1: 5](#). Paul’s aim is love. What does it mean and look like for our aim to be love when guarding the Gospel? Contrast that with what happens when people, especially within the church, are unloving. How does that affect our ability to guard well?
3. Paul describes love as that which comes from a pure heart, a good conscience, and a sincere faith. Which of these three do you resonate most with? Why? Which one do you need to grow most in?
4. What makes guarding the Gospel so challenging? What would you need to do or feel to be compelled and equipped to guard the Gospel?
5. How would you describe the gospel? One clear way to protect from false gospels is knowing *THE GOSPEL*. Here are a few scriptures that describe gospel truths and can help lead you in prayer and worship:

[Romans 5:8-11](#)

[Colossians 1:12-22](#)

[Titus 3:4-7](#)

[1 John 4:10](#)