

from 1 Timothy and ask them to identify the problems that were addressed. The groups will need to "read between the lines," realizing that these instructions were given because there must have been problems in these areas. (The answers are provided for your review.) (Question 15)

1. 1:4-6 (Some were departing from the exposition of Scripture into teaching that was extra-Biblical.)

2. 1:7 (Others wanted to be teachers but did not have a good grasp of the Word.)

3. 2:8 (Ungodly men were praying.)

4. 2:9, 10 (Some women were more concerned with what they wore and how their hair looked than with godly character.)

5. 2:12 (Women were trying to usurp authority from men and were speaking about inappropriate matters.)

6. 3:1-13 (Men whose character was not godly desired leadership positions.)

7. 4:1-5 (Some were teaching demonic doctrine.)

8. 4:12 (Not all of the older believers were respecting their younger pastor.)

9. 5:6 (Women were living for sensual pleasure.)

10. 5:13 (Idle women were going from house to house sharing juicy gossip and spreading dissension.)

11. 5:20 (Some elders were harboring sin in their lives.)

12. 6:9, 10 (Some people were caught up in materialism, to the neglect of serving the Lord.)

The church at Ephesus faced a number of difficult issues that threatened to dishearten Pastor Timothy and divide the congregation. The strong testimony of this influential church was in danger of being silenced.

Somehow Paul received word of the situation. Caring deeply about young Timothy, whom he had mentored, and also about his spiritual children in Ephesus, Paul wrote a letter to help them through this difficult time. First Timothy 3:14 and 15 is the key passage to understanding Paul's purpose of the book: "These things write I unto thee, hoping to come unto thee shortly: but if I tarry long, that thou mayest know how to behave thyself in the house of God, which is the church of the living God, the pillar and ground of the truth."