

Equipping Lifelong Learners (Disciples)

"As I urged you when I was going to Macedonia, remain at Ephesus so that you may charge certain persons not to teach any different doctrine, nor to devote themselves to myths and endless genealogies, which promote speculations rather than the stewardship from God that is by faith. The aim of our charge is love that issues from a pure heart and a good conscience and a sincere faith. Certain persons, by swerving from these, have wandered away into vain discussion."

1 Timothy 1:3-6

"Equipping people to pursue Jesus Christ passionately as they impact the culture."

East Cooper Baptist Church Purpose Statement

General Truths:

1. The true faith is destroyed by straying from the apostolic message. Therefore, we are to be insistent on the truth and authority of Scripture.

"Command and teach these things." 1 Timothy 4:11

"O Timothy, guard the deposit entrusted to you. Avoid the irreverent babble and contradictions of what is falsely called "knowledge" 1 Timothy 6:20

"Follow the pattern of the sound words that you have heard from me, in the faith and love that are in Christ Jesus." 2 Timothy 1:13

"By the Holy Spirit who dwells within us, guard the good deposit entrusted to you."

2 Timothy 1:14

2. The message of Christ is sound, life enhancing, glorious, and joy producing.

"And which now has been manifested through the appearing of our Savior Christ Jesus, who abolished death and brought life and immortality to light through the gospel, for which I was appointed a preacher and apostle and teacher." 1 Timothy 1:10b-11

3. The goal of biblical engagement/equipping is love or **the grateful outpouring of the entire personality to the living God which results in a deep yearning for the temporal and the eternal welfare of others.**

"Disciples are made by the preserving proclamation of the word of God by the people of God in prayerful dependence on the Spirit of God." The Vine Project, Marshall and Payne, pg. 83

Elements of Love (1 Timothy 1:5):

*Pure heart-encompasses the mind, heart, and will.

"And Simon answered, "Master, we toiled all night and took nothing! But at your word I will let down the nets." And when they had done this, they enclosed a large number of fish, and their nets were breaking. They signaled to their partners in the other boat to come and help them. And they came and filled both the boats, so that they began to sink. But when Simon Peter saw it, he fell down at Jesus' knees, saying, "Depart from me, for I am a sinful man, O Lord." Luke 5:5-8

*Clear conscience-self-examination which enables a person to make moral decisions based on certain standards.

*Sincere faith-always ready to listen and do the right thing; not polluted by pretense or hypocrisy.

1. I am to be continuously equipped so that I might know the strong reality of Christ. This, in turn, will produce a disciple who is "competent and equipped for every good work," the Father calls me to undertake (2 Timothy 3:17).
2. *"This sanctification is throughout, the whole man; yet imperfect in this life, there abiding still some remnants of corruption in every part; whence arise a continual and irreconcilable war. In which war, although the remaining corruption, for a time, may much prevail yet, through the continual supply of strength from the sanctifying Spirit of Christ, the regenerate part doth overcome and so, the saints grow in grace perfecting holiness in the fear of God."*

Westminster Confession of Faith, Chapter 13, article 2 and 3

3. The Importance of the Lord's Day

"The first day of the week is the Lord's Day. It is a Christian institution for regular observance. It commemorates the resurrection of Christ from the dead and should include exercises of worship and spiritual devotion, both public and private. Activities on the Lord's Day should be commensurate with the Christian's conscience under the Lordship of Jesus Christ."

The Baptist Faith and Message, The Lord's Day, Article VIII

Questions for Discussion

1. Why is an ongoing equipping and learning lifestyle absolutely essential for a child of God? (i.e.: "leaky buckets")
2. What did Paul charge Timothy to do at Ephesus?
3. How can we stray from the truth and become involved in meaningless conversation?
4. How can we make Sunday a day that is honoring to the Lord and personally enriching?
5. How do we bring "persevering proclamation of the Word of God" into our relationships, families, and community groups?