

Order of Service

October 10, 2010

*Worship in Music*

*Worship in Fellowship*

*Worship in Message*

Wayne Braudrick

*Worship in Giving*

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### Fighting For Love

*1 Timothy 1:1-5*

*The Good Fight series*

Life Change: We experience true love because of sound doctrine.

#### Theodore Roosevelt's letters to his children...

**Paul is the spiritual father.** 1:1

**Timothy is the child.** 1:2

#### The epistle is about the good fight.

Theme of the study (what the study is about): Paul's driving concern in the book is sound doctrine. False teachers, especially Judaizers (who remind us of modern legalists) and Gnostics (who resemble New Agers), were a grave danger. Timothy, and all the church, is to fight the good fight of truth. This is not a scorched-earth war of a fight, but one expected to generate love. Obviously, this is quite different from the extremes so often experienced among Christians: cowardly, lowest-common denominator, wimpy doctrine that stands for nothing (and thus falls for anything); and harsh, mean-spirited, fearful divisiveness. In stark contrast, Paul expects Timothy, and every Christian, to stand strong for biblical truth in an effort to realize genuine love.

**Paul foreshadows the problems:**

**1:3-4**

Brought by Judaizers.

And Gnostics.

**Paul shares God's solution:**

**1:5**

Remember that the goal is love.

Premise (why we are studying this): As in the first century, so today Christians struggle with false teaching. We are regularly assaulted with heresies; some based on supposed "knowledge" opposed to scripture and others drawn from Bible passages taken out of context. Horribly, Christians seem to operate at two poles: the extreme of vacillating, empty doctrine or the opposite realm of vitriolic attacks. Paul calls us to fight the good fight internally and externally such that we revel in love – love born of our pure hearts, good consciences, and sincere faith.

Objective (what we hope to see God accomplish in us through the study): That we live out our faith in Christ with appropriate holy living signified by love.

Love from a pure heart.

Love from a good conscience.

Love from a sincere faith.