

## **“Enjoying God by Enjoying His Good Gifts”**

### **1 Timothy 4:1-5**

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1 Now the Spirit expressly says that in later times some will depart from the faith by devoting themselves to deceitful spirits and teachings of demons, 2 through the insincerity of liars whose consciences are seared, 3 who forbid marriage and require abstinence from foods that God created to be received with thanksgiving by those who believe and know the truth. 4 For everything created by God is good, and nothing is to be rejected if it is received with thanksgiving, 5 for it is made holy by the word of God and prayer.

### **The Problem Facing the Church Past and Present**

**Asceticism** - severe self-discipline to avoid pleasure in life for the purpose of increased spiritual discipline

#### **Asceticism in American Evangelicalism:**

1. Downplaying the goodness of earthly blessings
2. Subtle guilt when we enjoy earthly blessings

### **Why is asceticism so dangerous?**

1. **The rejection of God’s good gifts is actually a rejection of the goodness of the gospel.**
2. **The rejection of God’s good gifts is actually a rejection of God’s goodness.**

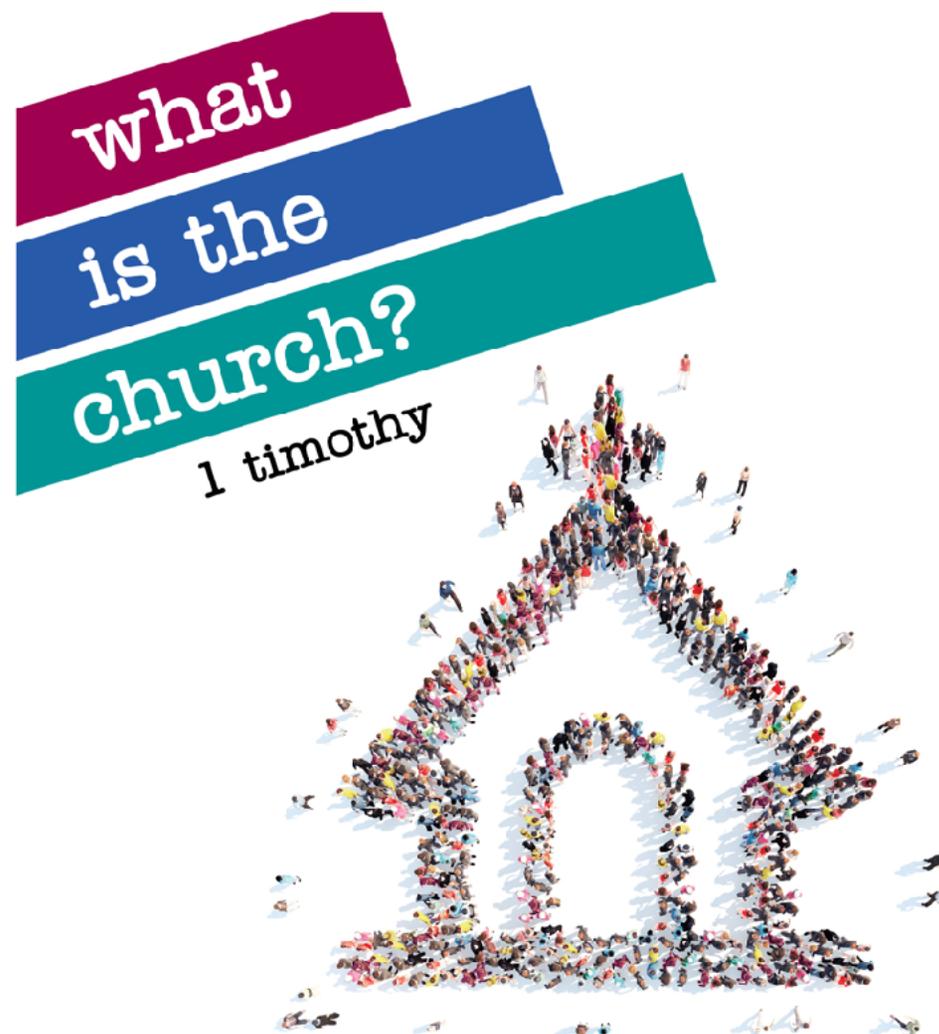
### **How do we enjoy God through his gifts?**

## Life Group or Family Discussion Questions:

1. In the movie "Chariots of Fire," Olympian Eric Liddell says that when he runs, he "feels [God's] pleasure." Is there anything you do that is not distinctly "Christian" but where you feel close to God?
2. **Read 1 Timothy 4:1-2.** Paul says that this false teaching is "demonic." What does he mean by this? How does this differ from our traditional understanding of the "demonic"?
3. **Read 1 Timothy 4:3.** What does this verse teach us about the false teaching in Ephesus? Why is this false teaching so dangerous? How do we see it in today's church?
4. **Read Genesis 1:31; 2:9.** What two things do these verses teach us about Creation? How do these truths influence the way we view creation today?
5. **Read Mark 8:34-36.** How do we balance Paul's words here about enjoying God's creation with Jesus's words in Mark?
6. **Read 1 Timothy 4:4-5.** Paul describes the mindset we must have to enjoy God's creation. What is it? Why is this mindset so important?
7. List three good gifts that you can enjoy this week and thank God for. How do those gifts help you to enjoy God?

Enjoy God by enjoying his gifts.

Apr 9 - Palm Sunday • Apr 16 - Easter



# Does the Church Still Matter?

April 2, 2017

Sundays

9:30 a.m.  
10:30 a.m.

CW Classes Hour  
Worship Service

