

Introduction: The paralyzing power of fear

The context – historical & relational

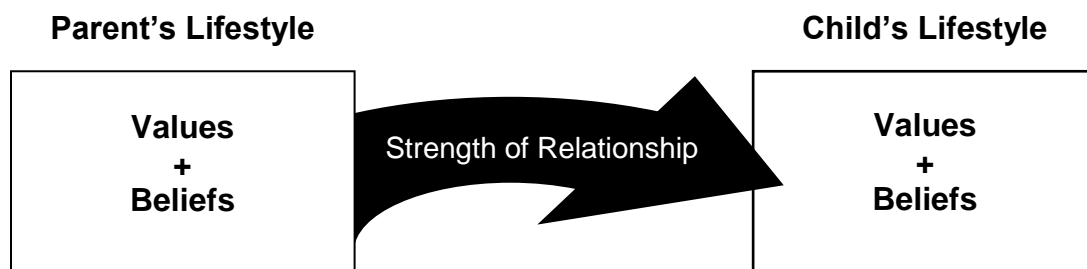
2 Timothy 1:1-2

- From whom, when, and why?
- To whom, where, and why?

The importance of mentor/mentee relationship

2 Timothy 1:3-5

- The content = deep, real, vulnerable, affirming
- The principle = real discipleship always flows from the heart.



Paul's 1st challenge to Timothy – “Be bold in fulfilling your calling”

- Timothy's responsibility 2 Timothy 1:6
- God's provision 2 Timothy 1:7
- The principle = we must constantly _____ one another of powerful experiences in our _____ and the _____ given to us by His Spirit.
- Aside to parents and grandparents – Make your kids and grandkids your number one group to disciple

Paul's 2nd challenge to Timothy – “Don't be ashamed of your Lord”

- The command = “Do not be ashamed...” 2 Timothy 1:8a
- An appeal = “Join me in suffering...” 2 Timothy 1:8b
- Reasons to obey. 2 Timothy 1:9-10
- An example to follow. 2 Timothy 1:11-12

Paul's 3rd challenge to Timothy – “Don't be ashamed of His Word”

- The command = “Retain and guard the truth...” 2 Timothy 1:13-14
- A motivating negative example 2 Timothy 1:15
- A motivating positive example 2 Timothy 1:16-18

Summarizing and pondering – What is God saying to you and me?

- Try to imagine how Timothy must have felt receiving this letter. His long-time mentor and father in the faith is going to die, persecution is at an all-time high under Nero, and Timothy is to take on Paul's role, to “pass the baton” of a very clear set of teachings (doctrinal and the practical outworking of a godly life in a secular culture with false teachers invading the Church).

Discussion Questions:

1. Why do you think Paul started his letter the way he did? What in verses 1-7 would be a source of confidence for you?
2. Why do you think Paul emphasized not being ashamed of the Gospel? How do you “shrink back” from what you really believe? What can you do to change that?
3. Paul used the word “treasure” or “deposit” when referring to the core teaching and “the truth” handed down to Timothy. Why is doctrine (i.e., what we believe about God, Jesus, the Holy Spirit, eternal life, morality, heaven, and hell) so important?
4. Down through history, countless people have protected the Gospel and “retained the standard of sound words” that Paul talked about. How does this challenge you today?
5. How can you “fan into flame” God’s gifts and ministry purpose for your life? Who are you personally discipling?