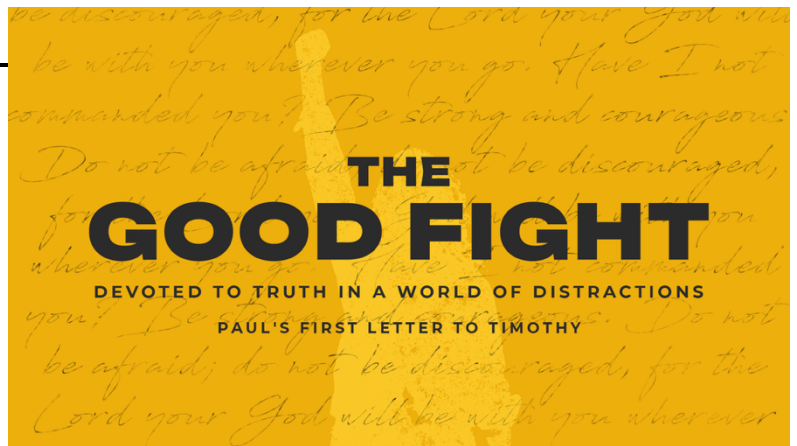


The Good Fight

Devoted to truth in a world of distractions

14 – Serve all the Better

1 Timothy 6:1-2b



1. Pastor Todd started with the thought that, “We tend to treat those closest to us with the greatest contempt”. Have you found this to be true? Why do you think it tends to go this way in close relationships?
2. Christian slaves were being told by Paul to honour their earthly masters whether they are Christians or not. Some were finding that hard to do. Who do you find hard to honour? Why?
3. By dishonouring people who ought to be honoured, we dishonour (revile; blaspheme) the Lord himself and his Word. How does this end up impacting our mission in the world?
4. Jesus tells us that when we serve others, we’re serving him (see Matthew 25:31-46). How can we keep this in mind while serving? How would that change things?
5. Read John 13:35. Pray for one another and our church in light of what Jesus said.

Series: The Good Fight (1 Timothy)
Message: 15 – Serve All The Better
Text: 1 Timothy 6:1-2b
Todd Dugard
Harvest Bible Chapel
August 3, 2025

We tend to treat those closest to us with the greatest contempt.

I must give careful attention to my relationships with fellow believers...

...honouring those who may be hard to honour (v. 1a)

Though the apostle did not argue against slavery, his teaching in 1 Timothy 6:2a was unheard of in his day. In ancient Rome, slaves obviously had a lower social status. Yet Paul says a slave's work benefits his master, making him equal to him in the good he can do. Passages like this eventually led certain men in the West to fight for the abolition of slavery, and the gospel's absence in other parts of the world may help explain why some nations still practice slavery today. — Ligonier

...ensuring I'm not dishonouring the Lord and his Word (v. 1b)

reviled: Βλασφημία (to blaspheme) – to speak against someone in such a way as to harm or injure his or her reputation; to defame — L&N 33.400.

O Lord, everything good in me is due to you. The rest is my fault. — Augustine

The calling of all Christians is to magnify the supreme lordship of Christ by the way we serve in subordinate lordships. — John Piper

Q. How and why did God create us?

A: God created us male and female in his own image to know him, love him, live with him, and glorify him. And it is right that we who were created by God should live to his glory. — New City Catechism

Romans 15:18-20

...always serving as best I can (v. 2a)

1 Corinthians 10: 31b

...knowing we're bound together in the love of Christ (v. 2b)

The greatest single cause of atheism in the world today is Christians who acknowledge Jesus with their lips, walk out the door, and deny Him by their lifestyle. That is what an unbelieving world simply finds unbelievable. — Brennan Manning, The Ragamuffin Gospel

John 13:35

Resources:

Christian Slaves and Masters

<https://learn.ligonier.org/devotionals/christian-slaves-and-masters>

Our Master in Heaven

<https://www.mljtrust.org/sermons/book-of-ephesians/our-master-in-heaven/>

Slavery and Christ's Supreme Lordship - How to Live Under Human Authority

<https://www.desiringgod.org/messages/slavery-and-christs-supreme-lordship>