

SERMON DISCUSSION GUIDE
2 TIMOTHY 2:20-26 • OCTOBER 2, 2022



WARM UP: Foundational Practice of Serving Faithfully

This month, we will be focusing on our foundational practice of **serving faithfully**. We put the Gospel on display as we serve others where we live, work, and play (Matthew 5:16)! As followers of Christ, we serve our church, our city, and our world! **Where do you see God providing opportunities for you to serve faithfully where you live, work, and play? How have you seen God use serving opportunities as a means of grace in putting the Gospel on display in your life and/or in other believers' lives?**

1. **Read 2 Timothy 2:20-26 out loud.** What do you observe/notice in this passage? In Christ, we are born again and live in the Spirit. However, though we have died to the *mastery* of sin in our lives, we still battle the flesh. **Read Galatians 5:16-26.** How does this passage connect to 2 Timothy 2:20-26? Where do you currently see the battle between the flesh and the Spirit in your own life? How can we continue opening ourselves to the work of the Spirit in our lives rather than walking in the flesh?

**“Search me, O God, and know my heart! Try me and know my thoughts!
And see if there be any grievous way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting!”**

PSALM 139:23-24

2. We are commanded to “*flee* youthful passions and pursue righteousness, faith, love, and peace, along with those who call on the Lord from a pure heart.” This is not a solo endeavor, but a communal experience. How have you seen God use community in fleeing the things of the flesh and pursuing righteousness, faith, love, and peace? If you have not experienced this, what would it look like for you to invite trusted believers into this? What are some common felt barriers to living in the light in community? (1 John 1:5-10)
3. Paul exhorts the church to avoid ignorant controversies that breed quarrels and to oppose false teaching with gentleness. We are reminded that people who oppose the truth of God’s Word are not the real enemy, but are victims of the enemy. Therefore, our charge is to speak the truth in love and pray that God would “grant them repentance leading to a knowledge of the truth” (v. 25). How does knowing that *people* are not the real enemy change how you view/interact with those who oppose biblical truth? What does it look like to correct others with gentleness? How have others spoken the truth in love to you?

CLOSING CHALLENGE

Spend a few minutes individually sitting with the Lord and asking Him to bring people to mind who you can pray for—that God would lead them to repentance and knowledge of the truth. Pray for those He brings to mind and ask God to continue forming your heart towards Christlikeness.