



Stuff They Didn't Teach Me In Sunday School



Episode 172 - Young Leaders (1 Timothy)

Paul: An Example of God's Great Patience

Anyone who goes to church expecting to meet a group of perfect, loving people is in for a surprise. Paul knew any Christian, especially a young pastor like Timothy, could be bitterly disappointed, frustrated and burned out from the pettiness, selfishness and sinfulness of the people in his church. So he reminded his young friend—and us—of the enormous transition God worked in his own life, taking him from being a murderer of Christians, to a powerful apostle and missionary.

- Why did Paul underscore Jesus' patience, as he recalled the days of his persecution of the church?
- How would seeing Paul's sins—and his own—help Timothy become more patient with those who sinned against him?
- When we are dealing with stubborn sinful people at home, at church or at work, why is it important for us to remember what Jesus can do, even with a murderer of Christians like Paul?
- Compare who you are now with the kind of person you were in your youth. What maturity has Christ worked in you?
- Why is it important to remember these transitions sometimes takes years or even a lifetime?

The Young Pastor

Young, idealistic pastors face many tough and unexpected challenges in the first years of their ministry. (Ask your pastor. He may want to share some of his own experiences.)

- Describe a time you were put down or dismissed because of your youth.
- Why might it be difficult for older members to show respect to a young pastor?
- How can a young pastor gain the respect of his congregation, without coercing or lording his authority over them?
- Why did Paul warn Timothy not to rebuke older members of his congregation but to gently exhort them, as he would his own father?
- Why is it wise for a church leader to avoid godless chatter and controversies?
- Paul told Timothy to avoid false teachers and false prophets. Why would this be recommended rather than showing them patience and confronting them?

Take Care of Yourself

Paul advised Timothy to drink wine and not just water for the stomach ailments he suffered.

- Why might it have been healthier for Timothy to drink wine than water?
- How could the pressure of his ministry have affected Timothy's stomach problems?
- What would you expect to be the most stressful parts of a pastor's work?
- How can we strengthen and encourage our pastors?