

FIRST



TIMOTHY

Chapter 1

DEMOCRATIC NATIONAL COMMITTEE:

Resolution Regarding the Religiously Unaffiliated Demographic

WHEREAS, the religiously unaffiliated demographic has tripled in the last two decades, now representing 25% of the overall American population and 35% of those under the age of 30; and

WHEREAS, religiously unaffiliated Americans overwhelmingly share the Democratic Party's values, with 70% voting for Democrats in 2018, 80% supporting same-sex marriage, and 61% saying immigrants make American society stronger; and

WHEREAS, the religiously unaffiliated demographic represents the largest religious group within the Democratic Party, growing from 19% in 2007 to one in three today; and

WHEREAS, the nonreligious have often been subjected to unfair bias and exclusion in American society, particularly in the areas of politics and policymaking where assumptions of religiosity have long predominated; and

WHEREAS, those most loudly claiming that morals, values, and patriotism must be defined by their particular religious views have used those religious views, with misplaced claims of "religious liberty," to justify public policy that has threatened the civil rights and liberties of many Americans, including but not limited to the LGBT community, women, and ethnic and religious/nonreligious minorities; and

WHEREAS, the Democratic Party is an inclusive organization that recognizes that morals, values, and patriotism are not unique to any particular religion, and are not necessarily reliant on having a religious worldview at all; and

Please turn to:
Revelation 2: 1-6

Message to the Seven Churches



A map of the Aegean region in Asia Minor, showing the locations of the Seven Churches of Asia. A light gray line connects the seven cities in a clockwise loop. The cities are labeled with white text and a black dot: Pergamum (top left), Thyatira (top center), Sardis (center), Philadelphia (center right), Laodicea (bottom right), Ephesus (bottom left), and Smyrna (middle left). The map features a brownish, textured background representing land and a blue background representing the sea.

Pergamum • Thyatira • Sardis • Philadelphia • Laodicea • Ephesus • Smyrna

Chapter 2: Verses 1-3

*“To the angel of the church in
Ephesus write:*

*These are the words of him
who holds the seven stars in
his right hand and walks
among the seven golden
lampstands*

**and walks among the seven golden
lampstands**

This is the Hebrew phrase for
moving in the Churches.
Also note that in all instances
Jesus Knows what is going
on. He sees everything!

Question

What does it mean today
when someone says Jesus
is moving in a Church?

Revelation 2: 1-3

I know your deeds, your hard work and your perseverance. I know that you cannot tolerate wicked people, that you have tested those who claim to be apostles but are not, and have found them false. You have persevered and have endured hardships for my name, and have not grown weary.

you cannot tolerate wicked people

What is Jesus commending
His Church for doing?

I don't think it is just a
coincidence that the same
word (wicked) used here is
also used in Genesis 19:4-8.

Question

What does it mean to “*not tolerate*”?

you cannot tolerate wicked people

We must understand the importance of this today.

Jesus is telling us the Church is to be intolerant.

It is vital for Churches to understand this as this is extremely counter-culture today.

Chapter 2: 1-3

I know your deeds, your hard work and your perseverance. I know that you cannot tolerate wicked people, that you have tested those who claim to be apostles but are not, and have found them false. You have persevered and have endured hardships for my name, and have not grown weary.

Question

How does a Church

“test those who claim to be apostles but are not, and have found them false”?

Revelation 2: 4-6

*Yet I have **forsaken the love you had at first.** Consider how far you have fallen! Repent and **do the things you did at first.** **If you do not repent, I will come to you and remove your lampstand from its place.** But you have this in your favor: **You hate the practices of the Nicolaitans,** which I also hate.*

**Yet I hold this against you: You have
forsaken the love you had at first**

What is Jesus saying that the
Church in Ephesus is guilty
of here?

I think the Church in Ephesus was on fire for God when men like Paul were around, but now has become an organization or religion and not a church. It is doing things out of habit and tradition without spending time with Christ.

This church has lost the relationship with Christ. The members of this church just go to church on Sundays, because that is what they are supposed to do to fulfill their religious duties.

**Consider how far you have fallen! Repent
and do the things you did at first**

I believe Jesus is saying that they did have a loving relationship with him at one time and they need to return to the time when they first met Him and were excited about having a relationship with Him, were hungering for his Word and wanting to learn His Truths.

Question

How do you think they
can do this?

**I will come to you and remove your
lampstand from its place.**

What does this mean?

**I will come to you and remove your
lampstand from its place.**

The Church will be working on their own power only and Jesus will no longer be moving in their Church.

Note: Jesus is not removing their star from his hand, only the lampstand.

**But you have this in your favor: You
hate the practices of the
Nicolaitans, which I also hate.**

What does this mean?

Nicolaitans

Roman church historian Eusebius writes that Nicolas' fundamental doctrine appears to have been "the flesh must be treated with contempt."

Nicolaitans

Over the years, however, this teaching took on a more Gnostic spin: Since the flesh is unimportant, even contemptible, what one does in the flesh is of no consequence.

Nicolaitans

Spiritual life, growth and ultimately salvation occur in the soul, and since God is spirit, He has no regard for the flesh. Therefore Nicolaitans believed that it does not matter if one satisfies the flesh's desires.

Nicolaitans

According to the writings of the Early Church leaders, the Nicolaitans were also so immersed in occultism, Judaism, and Christianity that they had no problem intermingling these belief systems in various concoctions with Christianity.

Nicolaitans

They saw no reason why believers couldn't continue to practice their sexually immoral behavior associated with these beliefs.

Clement of Alexander wrote the following about the Nicolaitans:

“They abandoned themselves to pleasure like goats, leading a life of self-indulgence.”

Nicolaitans

I believe the Nicolaitians can be viewed today as churches who claim to be Christian but have become corrupted by society or other religions to accept or practice ungodly behavior.

1 Timothy 1:3 (NIV)

*As I urged you when I went into Macedonia, stay there in Ephesus **so that you may command certain people not to teach false doctrines any longer***

Question

Do we have the same
problem today?

1 Timothy 1:4 (NIV)

or to **devote themselves to**
myths and **endless**
genealogies. **Such things**
promote controversial
speculations rather than
advancing God's work—which
is by faith.

1 Timothy 1:4 (KJV)

*Neither give heed **to fables**
and endless genealogies,
which minister questions,
rather than godly edifying
which is in faith*

Question

What are fables?

Question

Do we have the same
problem in churches
today?

Honi and his Magic Circle



BY Phillis Gershator
PICTURES BY Shay Rieger

2012



The previous photo was from a True Woman conference where the women attending the conference were sent home with little bags containing chalk so that they could immediately begin drawing prayer circles at home and perhaps at their churches.

1 Timothy 1:4 (KJV)

*Neither give heed to fables
and **endless genealogies**,
which minister questions,
rather than godly edifying
which is in faith*

Question

What are endless
Genealogies?

Question

What is wrong with
teaching fables and
endless genealogies?

1 Timothy 1:4 (NIV)

*or to devote themselves to myths and endless genealogies. Such things promote controversial speculations **rather than** **advancing God's work—** **which is by faith.***

Question

Who are we relying on for power when we allow faith to advance God's work?

1 Timothy 1:5 (NIV)

The goal of this command
*is love, which comes from a
pure heart and a good
conscience and a sincere
faith.*

Question

What is a command?

Question

What command is Paul referencing?

**“command certain
people** *not to teach false
doctrines any longer or to
devote themselves to
myths and endless
genealogies.”*

Question

Can you summarize what Paul is saying about the goal of this command?

1 Timothy 1:5 (NIV)

The goal of this command
is love, which comes from a
pure heart and a good
conscience and a sincere
faith.

1 Timothy 1:6-7 (NIV)

Some have departed from these and have turned to meaningless talk. They want to be teachers of the law, but they do not know what they are talking about or what they so confidently affirm.

Question

Just from the first few verses of Paul's letter, what can we determine the Church in Ephesus is struggling with?

Chapter 2: 1-3

*I know your deeds, your hard work and your perseverance. **I know that you cannot tolerate wicked people, that you have tested those who claim to be apostles but are not,** and have found them false. You have persevered and have endured hardships for my name, and have not grown weary.*

1 Timothy 1: 8 (NIV)

We know that the law is good
if one uses it properly.

Question

How can you use the law
improperly?

Please turn to:
Romans 3: 19-20

Romans 3: 19-20 (NIV)

Now we know that whatever the law says, it says to those who are under the law, so that every mouth may be silenced and the whole world held accountable to God.

Romans 3: 19-20 (NIV)

Therefore no one will be declared righteous in God's sight by the works of the law; rather, through the law we become conscious of our sin.

Please turn to:

1 John 3: 4-5

1 John 3: 4 -5 (NIV)

Everyone who sins breaks the law; in fact, sin is lawlessness. But you know that he appeared so that he might take away our sins. And in him is no sin.

1 Timothy 1: 8 (NIV)

*We know that the law is good
if one uses it properly.*

1 Timothy 1: 9a (NIV)

We also know that the law is made not for the righteous but for lawbreakers and rebels, the ungodly and sinful, the unholy and irreligious,

Question

Remember the state of society in Ephesus?

Paul now lists some of the sins the Ephesian Church is surrounded by

1 Timothy 1: 9b (NIV)

*for those who kill their
fathers or mothers, for
murderers,*

The original Greek rendering, smiters of fathers and mothers, and refers to persons of various ages who refuse to take care of their parents and allow them to die.

1 Timothy 1: 9b (NIV)

*for those who kill their fathers
or mothers, for **murderers**,*

1 Timothy 1: 10a (NIV)

*for the **sexually immoral**,
for those practicing
homosexuality, for slave
traders and liars and
perjurers*

1 Timothy 1: 10a (NIV)

*for the sexually immoral, **for**
those practicing
homosexuality, for slave
traders and liars and
perjurers*

Question

Since homosexuality is sexual immorality, why do you think Paul addresses it as a separate sin?

1 Timothy 1: 10a (NIV)

*for the sexually immoral, for
those practicing
homosexuality, **for slave
traders** and liars and
perjurers—and for whatever
else is contrary to the sound
doctrine*

10 Things I Learned About Christians & Slavery

“As I understand it, slavery would not have survived and thrived for so long in the U.S. had Christians not been so intimately involved in justifying and practicing it.”

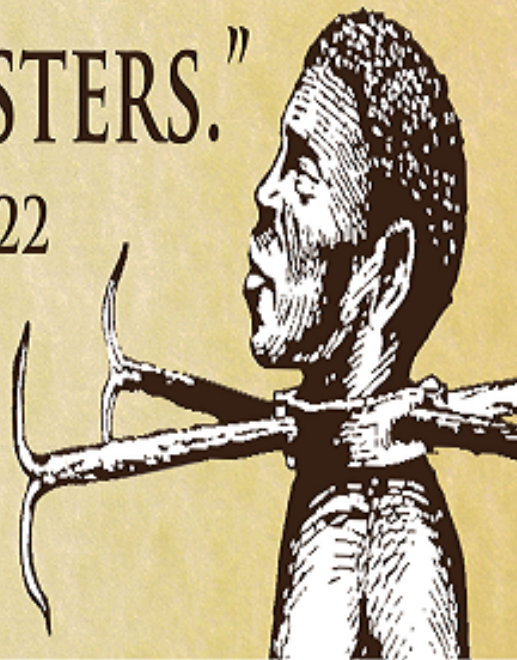
“SLAVES, OBEY YOUR MASTERS.”

- COLOSSIANS 3:22

This lesson in Bronze Age ethics

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*for the sexually immoral, for
those practicing
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1 Timothy 1: 10a (NIV)

*for the sexually immoral, for
those practicing
homosexuality, for slave
traders and liars and
perjurers*

1 Timothy 1: 12 (NIV)

*I thank Christ Jesus our Lord, **who has given me strength**, that he considered me trustworthy, appointing me to his service.*

Question

Where does Paul get his strength from?

1 Timothy 1: 12 (NIV)

*I thank Christ Jesus our Lord, who has given me strength, **that he considered me trustworthy**, appointing me to his service.*

Question

What was Paul considered trustworthy of?

1 Timothy 1: 13 (NIV)

*Even though I **was** once a blasphemer and a persecutor and a violent man, I was shown mercy because I acted in ignorance and unbelief.*

1 Timothy 1: 14 (NIV)

*The grace of our Lord **was**
poured out on me
abundantly, along with the
faith and love that are in
Christ Jesus.*

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14 hyperepleonasen

14 ὑπερεπλεόνασεν

14 Surpassingly increased

14 V-AIA-3S

1 Timothy 1: 15 (NIV)

*Here is a trustworthy saying
that deserves full acceptance:
Christ Jesus came into the
world to save sinners—of
whom I am the worst.*

1 Timothy 1: 16 (NIV)

But for that very reason I was shown mercy so that in me, the worst of sinners, Christ Jesus might display his immense patience as an example for those who would believe in him and receive eternal life.

1 Timothy 1: 17 (NIV)

*Now to the King eternal,
immortal, invisible, **the only**
God, be honor and glory for
ever and ever. Amen.*