

Community Group Sermon Notes



Disordered Loves – Pastor Kevin Flannery

Series: *Guard the Gospel & Adorn the Truth: The Pastoral Epistles*

Ice Breaker

Think about an ordinary day—what is one thing that regularly competes for your attention or subtly tells you, “*Life would be better if you had more of this*”? How do you think those everyday influences can begin shaping what we value and love?

Read & Reflect on the Scripture Passage – 2 Timothy 3:1-9

Sermon Application Discussion

1. What Has Captured Your Love?

Read 2 Timothy 3:1–4. (Also see Matthew 6:19–21, 33; Mark 12:29–30; 1 John 4:9–10, 19)

Paul surrounds a long list of behaviors with the language of love: *lovers of themselves, lovers of money, and lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God*. The sermon describes these behaviors as the fruit and disordered love as the root.

- Why do you think Paul focuses not only on sinful behavior but on what people love?
- The sermon asks, “Has a good thing become an ultimate thing?” What good things—career, financial security, children, reputation, comfort, relationships, success—can begin to occupy a place in our hearts that belongs to God?
- Consider these questions personally: What am I most afraid of losing? Where do I instinctively look for security, meaning, or comfort? What might your answers reveal about what has captured your heart?
- How does the gospel offer something better than simply trying harder to rearrange our loves?

2. Is My Faith Only Informing Me—or Transforming Me?

Read 2 Timothy 3:5–7. (Also see James 1:22–25; Romans 12:1–2; Galatians 5:22–25; John 15:4–5)

Paul warns about those who have “*a form of godliness but denying its power*.” The sermon reminds us that we can attend church, serve, give, know our Bibles, and consume Christian teaching while still resisting God’s transforming work. “Information about God is not the same as transformation by God.”

- What do you think it looks like to have the form of godliness while missing its power?
- How can Bible study, sermons, podcasts, books, and other Christian resources become things we consume without allowing God’s truth to change us?
- Instead of asking only, “What am I learning?” the sermon encourages us to ask, “What is Christ forming in me?” Where have you seen Christ genuinely changing you—perhaps making you quicker to repent, freer to forgive, more generous, more patient, or more captivated by Jesus?
- What is one area where you want to move from simply knowing God’s truth to living it?

3. How Do We Stay Anchored When the Counterfeit Looks Convincing?

Read 2 Timothy 3:8–9. (Also see John 8:31–32; Acts 17:11; Colossians 2:6–8; 1 John 4:1)

Paul acknowledges that falsehood can sometimes look convincing, gain followers, sound spiritual, and even appear successful. Yet it has a limit. The sermon encourages believers not to become experts in every counterfeit, but to become deeply familiar with “the real thing”: Christ, His Word, and His gospel.

- Why can popularity, influence, success, or Christian-sounding language sometimes make it difficult to recognize what is false?
 - The sermon offers four helpful questions for discernment: Does this agree with the gospel entrusted to the apostles? Does it make much of Christ? Does it lead toward holiness and love? Does it call me to surrender to Jesus—or simply affirm what I already want? How could these questions help us evaluate the messages we hear?
 - What practices can help us become so familiar with Christ, His Word, and His gospel that we more readily recognize what is counterfeit?
 - How does knowing that God's truth will ultimately stand give us confidence rather than fear?
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Going Deeper

Use these questions for personal reflection during the week:

1. **What has my heart?** Prayerfully consider what receives your first attention, what you fear losing, and where you instinctively turn for security or comfort. Ask God to reveal anything you have turned to instead of turning to Him for what only He can give.
 2. **What is Christ forming in me?** Choose one specific area—repentance, forgiveness, generosity, patience, truthfulness, humility, or love—and ask God to show you evidence of His grace as well as where He is inviting further transformation.
 3. **What needs to return to its proper orbit?** The sermon pictures Christ as the “great gravitational center of a redeemed life.” Identify one good thing that may have moved too close to the center of your life. What would it practically look like this week to enjoy that gift while putting Christ back at the center?
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Closing Prayer

Father, thank You that You loved us before we loved You. Search our hearts and show us anything that has taken the place that belongs to You alone. Forgive us for the ways we put ourselves, our comfort, our security, our relationships, or our desires at the center. Through Your grace, reorder our loves and transform us from the inside out. Give us discernment to recognize what is false and a deeper love for Christ, Your Word, and Your gospel. Keep bringing our hearts back to Jesus—the One who loved us, gave Himself for us, rose again, and reigns. May our lives increasingly reflect Your truth and Your transforming grace. In Jesus' name, Amen.

Faith in Action

This week, ask God to reveal one good thing that may have moved out of its proper place in your heart and begun competing with Christ for your love, security, or attention. Choose one practical action that puts that love back into its proper orbit—through surrender, repentance, generosity, forgiveness, or a change in how you spend your time and attention. Keep coming back to Jesus, trusting His grace to recapture your heart and transform your loves from the inside out.

Discipleship Process

LOVE GOD – Attending: Traditional Service (9:00 AM) & Contemporary Service (10:30 AM).

LOVE OTHERS – Connecting: Welcome to the 3rd week (of 12 weeks) of Fall Term Community Groups!

SERVE THE WORLD – Serving: Finalize your Community Group service project for this term.