

A Church for the Whole Family

Part 1: A Legacy to Pass On

2 Timothy 1:1-7 (NIV)

Paul, an apostle of Christ Jesus by the will of God, according to the promise of life that is in Christ Jesus,

²*To Timothy, my dear son:*

Grace, mercy and peace from God the Father and Christ Jesus our Lord.

³*I thank God, whom I serve, as my forefathers did, with a clear conscience, as night and day I constantly remember you in my prayers. ⁴Recalling your tears, I long to see you, so that I may be filled with joy. ⁵I have been reminded of your sincere faith, which first lived in your grandmother Lois and in your mother Eunice and, I am persuaded, now lives in you also. ⁶For this reason I remind you to fan into flame the gift of God, which is in you through the laying on of my hands. ⁷For God did not give us a spirit of timidity, but a spirit of power, of love and of self-discipline.*

1. THE CHURCH IS LIKE A FAMILY.

v. 2a "To Timothy, my dear son..."

- Since God is our Father, as believers we are brothers and sisters.
- Those we disciple are like family to us.
- When we understand the Church as family, it changes how we treat one another.

2. WE RECEIVE A LEGACY FROM THOSE WHO HAVE COME BEFORE US.

v. 3a "I thank God, whom I serve, as my forefathers did..."

v. 5 "I have been reminded of your sincere faith, which first lived in your grandmother Lois and in your mother Eunice..."

- Paul understood the heritage he had received.
- Whether it was from actual family or our spiritual family, we have benefited from the legacy given to us.
- We are where we are as the result of godly men and women who came before us.

3. WE PASS ON A LEGACY TO THOSE WHO WILL COME AFTER US.

v. 6 "For this reason I remind you to fan into flame the gift of God, which is in you through the laying on of my hands."

- We have an opportunity to pass our faith down to others.
- The benefit we have received from others cannot remain with us.
- Our spiritual protégés may take what we give to them to even greater heights.

4. WE MUST STEP INTO THE FUTURE WITH BOLDNESS AND COURAGE.

v. 7 "For God did not give us a spirit of timidity, but a spirit of power, of love and of self-discipline."

- We are not proceeding into the future alone, we stand on the shoulders of those who came before us.
- We do not have to face the future with fear.
- We can embrace the future with a spirit of:

Power

Love

Self-discipline