



What is the one thing the church should be doing? Paul gives Timothy some instructions that are essential if we are going to do God's work by faith as a church.

The first is to **PRACTICE SPIRITUAL DISCERNMENT.**

Paul tells Timothy he needs to do this in two areas.

One is not to allow **FALSE TEACHING.** *Galatians 1:6-8*

Anytime someone **TEACHING** something that is **CONTRADICTING** to the **BIBLE**, we may immediately know that we are dealing with such a problem. The Bible is our **GUIDE** for discerning **TRUTH** from **ERROR.**

Second, he tells Timothy not to get **DISTRACTED** by **NON-ESSENTIALS.** We are not told what these **THINGS** were all about, but it doesn't really **MATTER.** That's the whole point. None of these things really mattered compared to **TEACHING** the **WORD** of **GOD.**

Next, Paul says we are to be **MOTIVATED** by **LOVE.** How can we do this?

First of all, we should guard our **SELVES**, our **HEARTS** and our **CONSCIENCE IN FAITH.**

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Secondly, we must teach what will actually **HELP** others in their **FAITH.**

A third way is to not seek to **GLORIFY OURSELVES.**

Finally, we must use the **LAW PROPERLY.**

Paul says the **LAW** is **GOOD.** How do we use it improperly?

Whenever we make Christianity all about **RULES** and **REGULATIONS** instead of a **RELATIONSHIP** with God. Whenever we become **JUDGMENTAL** and **LEGALISTIC** instead of **FORGIVING** and full of **GRACE.** *Galatians 2:19-20*

The law is made not for the **RIGHTEOUS** but for the **UNRIGHTEOUS.**

First of all, the law **CONDEMNS** their **UNRIGHTEOUS** acts.

Secondly, the law brings **CONVICTION** for **SIN.**

*This is the gospel that God has entrusted to us.
This is the gospel that allows us as a church
to do God's work by faith.*