

Discernment in a Biblically Shaped Church

1 Timothy 4:1-6

4 Now the Spirit expressly says that in later times some will depart from the faith by devoting themselves to deceitful spirits and teachings of demons, ² through the insincerity of liars whose consciences are seared, ³ who forbid marriage and require abstinence from foods that God created to be received with thanksgiving by those who believe and know the truth. ⁴ For everything created by God is good, and nothing is to be rejected if it is received with thanksgiving, ⁵ for it is made holy by the word of God and prayer. ⁶ If you put these things before the brothers, you will be a good servant of Christ Jesus, being trained in the words of the faith and of the good doctrine that you have followed.

The Big Issue:

"Deconstruction/deconversion" (simply a modern take on _____) should not surprise us. The Holy Spirit _____ it.

Are we in the "later times"?

Apostasy is always rooted in _____ or _____.

When we _____ (i.e. "_____") we are committing slow spiritual _____ (individually and corporately).

The greatest _____ to the contemporary church is from false _____ and false _____.

The _____ of all false teaching is the same – _____, the first liberal theologian.

The _____ of all false teaching are _____ and _____.

Finally, a healthy church, led by Godly leaders, and filled with discerning saints will _____ theological error and false teachers with love, and refuse to be _____ when that happens.

A specific example:

_____ ...

Its roots:

Its fruit:

A lesson for us:

Therefore:

_____ must be the aim of us all.

Wise discernment requires theological "_____":

- _____ to the Gospel and to being a Christian ... These are our _____.
- _____ for the health and practice of the local church These are our _____.
- _____ to Christian theology ... These are our _____/_____.
- _____ by orthodox, conservative Christians ... These are our _____.

How we _____/_____ to teaching should match the level of that teachings _____.

- _____ doctrines are worth _____.
- _____ doctrines are worth _____ or _____ over.
- _____ doctrines are worth _____ and _____ over but not _____ over.
- _____ doctrines are ok to hold, but not ok to disrupt _____ over.

We must all endeavor to be _____, _____, and _____.