

# 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, <sup>2</sup> through the insincerity of liars whose consciences are seared, <sup>3</sup> who forbid marriage and require abstinence from foods that God created to be received with thanksgiving by those who believe and know the truth. <sup>4</sup> For everything created by God is good, and nothing is to be rejected if it is received with thanksgiving, <sup>5</sup> for it is made holy by the word of God and prayer. <sup>6</sup> 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 \_\_\_\_\_.