

## A Teacher In The Body Of Christ 4378

### I. Personal Background

- A. In 1944 the Lord specifically called Derek to be a teacher of the Scriptures
  - 1. Still in the British Army—no church connections
  - 2. “I have called thee to be a teacher of the Scriptures in truth and faith and love which are in Christ Jesus—for many”
- B. Radio program today: 10 languages, reaches basically every continent on earth
- C. Progression: truth first, then faith, then love
  - 1. Philosopher: emphasized truth
  - 2. Later realized truth is not effective without faith
  - 3. Final emphasis: *Love* is the *most important*
    - a. The goal of our instruction is love (1 Tim. 1:5)
    - b. Any instruction that does not produce love is missing the goal
    - c. Knowledge is not a substitute for producing loving people

### II. Scriptural Background

- James 3:1 “My brethren, let not many of you become teachers knowing that we shall receive a stricter judgment.” A fearful responsibility!
- A. Teacher: A *teacher* of *doctrine* (same Greek root for both words)
  - B. New believers in Jerusalem (Acts 2:42) – instructed to continue in:
    - 1. Apostles’ doctrine
    - 2. Fellowship
    - 3. Eating together
    - 4. PrayersPrimary requirement: to continue in the apostles’ doctrine
  - C. Doctrines of demons (1 Tim. 4:1)  
Not just God, but demons also have doctrines
  - D. Character requirements
    - 1. Personal life should line up with doctrine (1 Tim. 4:16)
      - a. First, take heed to yourself
      - b. Secondly, take heed to the doctrine
    - 2. Whoever “transgresses” (goes beyond) does not have God (2 John 9–11)
  - E. The doctrine of Christ
    - 1. The basic truth about Jesus Christ:
      - a. Son of God
      - b. Born of a virgin
      - c. Led a sinless life
      - d. Died an atoning death
      - e. Rose physically from the dead
      - f. Ascended into heaven
      - g. Coming again in power to reign
    - 2. Some major denominations have departed from this basic doctrine
    - 3. Be careful about those with whom you fellowship
      - a. “Happy is he who does not condemn himself in what he approves” (Romans 14:22b)

- b. Do not endorse what you cannot approve

### III. Two Levels Of Teachers

- A. Those who initiate (like Paul)
- B. Those who reproduce
  - 1. Men who can teach others also (2 Tim. 2:2)
  - 2. Elders (overseers) hold fast the word they were taught (Titus 1:9)
- C. Other forms of communication in the church which are not teaching doctrine:
  - 1. Prophecy; interpretation of tongues; revelation (1 Cor. 14; Rom. 12) testimony; exhortation (encouragement, Greek “stir up”; “cheer up”); counseling; ministry in special areas (family, drug addicts, etc.); older women teaching younger women (teaching = discipling) (Titus 2:3–5)
  - 2. All these must be tested against primary doctrine
- D. Women teaching (1 Tim. 2:12)
  - 1. Personal statement of Paul’s own principles (“I do not permit . . .”) Women should not teach comprehensive doctrine.
  - 2. Something about female personality that does not function well in certain areas which demand a comprehensive grasp of a large range of subjects: i.e. musical composition, mathematics, philosophy
- E. Requirements to teach comprehensive doctrine:
  - 1. “Minister”: servant (Col. 1:23–25)
    - a. First, a servant of the Gospel and, second, a servant of the church
    - b. Contrast Moses and Aaron: Moses put doctrine first; Aaron put the people first (Ex. 32:19–24)
    - c. It’s not our business to correct the Scripture
  - 2. Must have comprehensive grasp of the whole Bible (2 Tim. 3:16)
  - 3. Uncompromising—compromise is a “fog” in contemporary churches
  - 4. Free from personal prejudices: racial, social, denominational, national
  - 5. Orderly and systematic—example of Heb. 6:1–2 (logical order).