

## How To Split A Church | The Pillar | Part 3

### 1 Timothy 1:6-11

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Ever been a part of a church split? When all is said and done, don't we tend to blame church splits on the issue of the split or dispute? Worship, the color of the pews, who wants to be head pastor, etc. When the dust settles, we find a church splits because of decisions made months or years prior.....decisions made by people.....decisions made out of wandering hearts. Churches do not split because of issues. They split because people split from the truth.

1. Explain some ways you have observed yourself use ministry for yourself. That would be to enhance your pocketbook, reputation, position and the tangible things that do not last anyway. How have you seen this in your own life?
2. Can you have a sincere faith, but not a pure heart or a good conscience? Can you have a good conscience without a sincere faith or pure heart? Then, is it possible to have a pure heart without a good conscience or sincere faith? How do these three play well together and how does love issue from these three?
3. How do you know for sure that your ministry involvement is for the sake of the Gospel and not for the sake of You? What are the tests you might perform to check yourself? How do you respond when confronted, when ministry doesn't go your way, when change happens or when others move ahead and you feel you are left in the dust? How do you respond when you are not acknowledged? What are the signs that your ministry is really about you? Do you think the Gospel can go forth even if you are hurt in the process?
4. How can you begin to practice selflessness in your life and ministry to the point that others won't even see it? How might acts of selflessness that only God sees help you to stay on track with the Gospel and not self-promotion.
5. Do you use the Law of the Scriptures to defend a position you have? Do you use the Scriptures to shine light on your righteousness or to shatter it? How have you used the Scriptures to draw others to you instead of point others to Jesus? Does it concern you that this has happened in your life?
6. Take some time to note the church issues that you are struggling with right now. Are there people you struggle with? Are there policies and such that rub up against you? What else do you wrestle with? Can you take some time to isolate why you are struggling? What does it boil down to? What might be the central theme with all the issues? Run these through the filter of : is the ministry being used for man or God, is there sloppiness with the Scriptures, or is the Gospel being neglected. If those aren't going wrong, then where might the problem lie?
7. How thankful are you that the Gospel is proclaimed at College Park? How does the Gospel daily have an effect on your life? Does it humble you? Does it center you? Does the Gospel command your focus? Does the Gospel motivate you? If not, what does motivate you?