



# Fight the Good Fight

**1 Timothy 6:11-12**

**Sermon given on June 19, 2016**

**Father's Day Sunday**

**Calvary Chapel French Valley**



**Pastor Rick Lancaster**

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## 1 Timothy 6:11-12

### Opening Comments

- Happy Father's Day
- Turn to **1 Timothy 6**
- Father's Day is not always an easy day to deal with
- It is not always a time of celebrating and joy
- Just like many of you, I grew up in something other than a normal family
- Normal meaning mom and dad married, living happily together, and raising their children
- So, for a significant portion of my life, Father's Day was not all that meaningful to me
- I have no memories of my father, and so every Father's Day was and still is to some extent a reminder that something was missed in my life
- I didn't know what it was, but I knew something was missing
- Then something happened that started to change that
- Kelly got pregnant with our first son, Robert – now I was a father
- And without a father figure I could draw from, I did the best I could and started learning what it meant to father a child
- I didn't know God then, so I was doing the best I knew how
- And after thirty years learning to be a father, I was graduated to grandfather
- And while I am still a father, I am learning new things about what it means to be a father and grandfather
- One thing I know for certain is that I do not want my children or grandchildren to feel that sense of missing something because I was not where I was supposed to be
- Today's message is for men primarily
- To encourage you to keep at it – never give up – to keep fighting for your marriage and family

- And for you grandfathers, to keep connected – you don't know how important you are to the grandkids
- If it wasn't for my grandfather, I would have had no positive role models growing up
- For you ladies, it is my prayer that you see how you might help the men in your life to be the best men they can be
- Let's pray and then get into our text

## Teaching

- **Fight the Good Fight**
- We are going to be looking at a couple of Scriptures both written by the Apostle Paul to his son in the faith Timothy
- Timothy was pastoring the church in Ephesus
- In many ways pastoring is like being a father, just to much larger group of people whom you have less control over than you would with teenagers
- Paul wrote two letters to Timothy – 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> Timothy
- Near the end of each of these letter Paul wrote something that is important to us as fathers
- Let's look at the first one
- **1 Timothy 6:11**
- 'You, O man of God'
- There are two titles that every Christian man should cherish more than all others – not husband and father
- Child of God and man of God
- 'Child of God' points to my relationship with God because of Christ
- 'Man of God' points to my relationship to the world in the name of Christ
- Only because of those titles can the titles husband and father have their fulfilled meaning
- Paul says flee these things – earlier verses things that interfere with your relationship with God and man – sin
- Pursue righteousness, godliness, faith, love, patience, gentleness.
- 'flee' and 'pursue' are both verbs = action words
- They are two opposing activities, which leads us to our next verse

- **1 Timothy 6:12**

- Not doing what is wrong and choosing to do what is right is not always easy

- In fact it can be a fight – Paul used a similar analogy earlier **1 Timothy 1:18-19**

**This charge I commit to you, son Timothy, according to the prophecies previously made concerning you, that by them you may wage the good warfare, having faith and a good conscience, which some having rejected, concerning the faith have suffered shipwreck...**

- This is not a physical warfare **Ephesians 6:12**

**For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this age, against spiritual *hosts* of wickedness in the heavenly *places*.**

- So the question is, what is a good fight or good warfare

- The answer is in the question

- A good fight or a good warfare leads to good, and ultimately to God

- Think about the last argument you had with your wife or children

- What good were you working toward? How was it leading them to God? Did it draw you nearer to God?

- Boy, if we could catch ourselves early in arguments, and ask those questions, it might change things

- Turn to **Ephesians 6**

- Fighting the good fight is not easy, which is why many will not do it

- Listen, too many children are growing up in something other than a biblically normal family, just like many of us did

- God's plan for the family is that a man and a woman would enter into a lifelong covenant of marriage and raise their children to be children of God who enter into lifelong covenant marriages and raise their children to do the same

- Now, I know this congregation well enough to know that that may have stung a couple of you

- It was not meant to condemn – we can't change the past

- We can't undo past mistakes, or change the way things turned out

- Our focus must be on today

- Make this marriage a lifelong covenant between you and your spouse

- And if there are kids, help them to get to know Jesus as their own Savior
  - Fight the good fight for your marriage and family
  - Paul tells us here in Ephesians why we need to fight and about the tools that are needed for that fight
  - **Ephesians 6:10-13**
  - Satan is real, and he hates anyone who loves God
  - The devil wants to ruin your marriage and destroy your family
  - And God says that we are to do our part and fight
  - **Ephesians 6:14-18**
  - The cool part is if we will do our part, God will do His
  - And when God steps into the battle, stuff happens
  - The account of David facing the fearsome giant Goliath
  - David, the shepherd boy was no match for the battle-hardened giant
  - But David knew that God was with him **1 Samuel 17:47**
- Then all this assembly shall know that the LORD does not save with sword and spear; for the battle *is* the LORD's, and He will give you into our hands.**
- David had to fight the good fight – and trust God to take care of dealing with the giant
  - There is no giant in your life that God can't beat
  - But you need to do your part, get ready and step into the good fight
  - Is it all worth it? The Apostle Paul seemed to think so
  - Turn to **2 Timothy 4**
  - Second Timothy was written at the end of Paul's life
  - The Roman emperor Nero had him beheaded in Rome shortly after writing this - He knows that his time is short
  - **2 Timothy 4:6-7**
  - And Paul, as he concludes his last letter to Timothy, reflects upon his life
  - He says what I want to say at the end of my life, however long or short it might be
  - When I get to heaven, I want to stand next to Paul and say unashamedly that I fought the good fight, that I finished the race, and that I kept the faith
  - You see Paul was expecting something from Jesus

- **2 Timothy 4:8**
- Paul was looking past the end of his life and looking forward to a warm welcome in heaven and a reward for his fighting the good fight
- Want to leave you with three quick things before we wrap up today
- Verse seven gives us three goals of a ‘man of God’
- First – **I have fought the good fight!**
- The word fight in that verse in the Greek is the word from which we get the word ‘agony’
- Paul said He didn’t hold back – Paul was ‘all in’
- Guys, our wives, family, friends, church need us to be all in
- If you are into boxing or MMA then you know the fighter who is all in will often come out on top
- And that doesn’t just happen in the ring, but in his preparation for the fights
- A man of God is all in
- Second – **I have finished the race!**
- In the illustration of a fight, you get the sense of intensity, but only for a period of time
- The fights of life come and go
- But the picture of the race is different
- The race Paul is referring to is called life
- And it isn’t over until it is over
- That means we keep going at it until we get to the end
- This is a call for endurance and faithfulness
- A man of God is all in and he doesn’t quit
- Third and finally – **I have kept the faith!**
- Paul knew who he was – He was a man of God
- And he, to the best of his human ability, was faithful to that calling
- His goal was to be faithful to God right up to the end so that he would be worthy to receive the prize
- Lately, I have been watching a reality show called ‘Alone’
- They put ten people who have wilderness or survival training on an island in British Columbia miles from another and a long way from any other people

- Their goal is to live there longer than the others
- They have to make their own shelters, and find food and water
- The person that stays there the longest will get a prize of \$500K
- Last season's winner lasted 56 days
- This season two guys quit on day 21, bringing the remaining total down to 5
- What was interesting to me was they didn't quit because they weren't able to take care of themselves
- They had lost sight of the prize and couldn't see a reason to continue to fight – they just gave up
- Gentlemen, sometimes the battle becomes so intense, that we want to tap out, to give up, to just let the world have its way
- We have a reason to fight – just look around you – every person in here is a reason to fight the good fight
- Next door are all our kids and grandkids – they are the reason we can't give up
- And the God who called you is with you encouraging you to keep going, to keep fighting, until your race is finished
- The crown of righteousness awaits the man of God who is all in, who never gives up, and believes God is with him every step of the way
- Guys, God's word to you today – Fight on!
- **Prayer**