

**GATORADE SLIDE** - KARENA BOST w/Jordan Wright

**QR SLIDE FIRST THING** - CHRIS MARTIN

- Welcome & Connect Table
- **SLIDE** Pastor's Coffee

**INTRODUCTION 1 TIMOTHY SLIDE**

Hey, if you have your Bibles, and I hope you do,

- please grab them and turn to 1 Timothy chapter 1.

They had hard-backed black bibles as you came in...

- You'll find 1 Timothy 1 on page **991**.

**INTRODUCTION**

Well, friends, today we're talking about sin.

- At the very root of the Christian message is the idea of sin,
  - and not just that we DO bad things.

But that in our core, fallen state, we are **SLIDE SINNERS**.

Doctrinally, this is known as TOTAL DEPRAVITY.

- **And the doctrine of Total Depravity teaches...**
  - **that sin is not so much an ACTION...**
  - **as it is a CONDITION.**

We are born SINNERS...we didn't choose it...we were born this way.

**ILLUSTRATION: ORANGE TIC-TACS**

I'll illustrate:

One day, my sister-in-law Nancy was rummaging through her purse...

- looking for a pack of orange Tic-Tacs...
- and she couldn't find the package.

As she searched, she found an empty Tic-Tac case laying on the floor.

So, the interrogations began.

- First to her eldest child, Andy.
  - *"Andy, did you eat all my Tic-Tacs?"*
    - *"No, mom."*
- Then on to Ellie, the second in line.
  - *"Ellie, did you eat all my Tic-Tacs?"*
    - Ellie's response was the same as Andy's,
      - *"No, mom, I didn't."*
- Finally, to the 3-year-old Grady, to ask the same question.
  - She found Grady in his room...
    - happily playing with some toys...
  - but when he turned to greet her...
  - she saw his face was covered with orange residue.

So, Nancy did what any good mom would do.

- She gave this toddler...
  - a chance to come clean...
    - and admit his fault.
- So, she asked, *"Grady, did you eat my Tic-Tacs?"*
  - And to her shock, Grady responded, *"No, mom."*

Well, Nancy furrowed her brow, and responded,

- *"Well then, who ate them?"*
  - Grady says...*"Andy did."*
    - The little liar!

- And she says, “No, Andy didn’t.”
  - So, Grady says, “Ellie did.”
- “No, Ellie didn’t eat them either.
- Grady, did you eat my tic-tacs?”
  - And without skipping a beat Grady responded,
  - “Jesus ate your Tic-Tacs.”

Now, nobody taught Grady to do this...

- Nancy never taught him to lie...
- and pass the blame to Jesus.
  - I mean, I don’t know what kind...
    - of sinister blasphemers...
    - blames the Lord...
      - with orange residue still on his lips!

## TRANSITION

But it’s our nature.

We are all SINNERS.

- And if that’s our nature at 3-years-old...
- what hope is there for us who STILL struggle with sin?

Well, let’s get into this. 1 Timothy chapter 1. Let’s pick it up in verse 12:

## 1 TIMOTHY 1:12

[12] I thank him who has given me strength, Christ Jesus our Lord, because he judged me faithful, appointing me to his service,

## POINT 1: WHO HE WAS

So, our text today starts with a bit of a biography from Paul.

And Paul starts with **SLIDE WHO HE WAS**

Now, I just want you to first note:

- that Paul thanks Christ for **appointing him to his SERVICE.**
  - To SERVICE...not to LEADERSHIP.

And remember,

- 1 Timothy is a letter from the seasoned church planter, Paul...
- to his protege pastor, Timothy.
  - So, a lot of this book has to do with LEADERSHIP...
  - but Paul starts with SERVICE.

And this is all through the New Testament.

- Christians are servants...
  - We covered this in the Gospel of Matthew...
    - we are slaves of Christ...
  - and we must always see ourselves in that light.

## APPLICATION: SERVANT LEADERSHIP

LEADERSHIP is a hot topic in the world today...

- whether it's in business...
- or politics...
- or the church.

And if you read any sort of leadership book...

you will likely hear about SERVANT LEADERSHIP.

- But Paul doesn't talk about LEADERSHIP.
- He just says, **"I was appointed to serve!"**

And we're like, "Well, I'm a servant leader!"

- But it's like, hold on a second...SERVANT is a noun.
  - A SERVANT...serves someone.
- But you just made SERVANT an adjective...
  - you made it a modifier...
    - to your noun...LEADER.
- But Paul didn't say he was a LEADER...
- he said he was a SERVANT.

I'm not sure Paul would've said he was a SERVANT LEADER...

Rather, he'd say, "I'm the LEAD SERVANT!"

- If serving is beneath you...
- then leadership is beyond you.
  - Do you see yourself as a leader that serves?
  - Or a servant...who might get the opportunity to lead?

Because Paul seems to be in awe and wonder...

- that God has judged him faithful to serve.

Paul is gripped with wonder and humility as he identifies as a servant.

That's WHO HE WAS

Now, look at verse 13:

### 1 TIMOTHY 1:13a

[13] though formerly I was a blasphemer, persecutor, and insolent opponent.

## ILLUSTRATION: QUALIFICATIONS

So, Paul starts with astonishment that God would allow him to be a servant.

And now he tells us why.

- Look at his resume!?!
  - That's an astonishing wrap sheet!

I mean, one of our expectations of people in leadership

- is that they have education and experience in the field.
- So, we ask questions like, "*where did you go to school?*"

You want your dentist...to have gone to dental school.

- I ain't letting some psycho...
- dig around my teeth with pliers...
- unless he has a piece of paper mounted to his wall...
- that tells me he knows what he's doing!

You want your surgeon to have gone to med school...at the bare minimum!

- I mean, I'd actually rather have the woman cutting me open...
  - to have the 10 years of school...
    - PLUS 10 years of surgical experience...
      - you know?

## EXPLAIN: PAUL'S RESUME

But Paul doesn't list any of his accolades...though he had them.

- He was educated.
- He was powerful.
- He had influence.
- He was zealous.

But he lists none of his good accomplishments or attributes. No!

The three attributes he lists:

- Blasphemer...
- Persecutor...
- Insolent opponent!

That is WHO HE WAS!

And he does this all the time!

- Here are his very own words from Acts 26...
- when he's on trial before Agrippa.

### **SLIDE ACTS 26:9–11**

[9] "I myself was convinced that I ought to do many things in opposing the name of Jesus of Nazareth. [10] And I did so in Jerusalem. I not only locked up many of the saints in prison after receiving authority from the chief priests, but when they were put to death I cast my vote against them. [11] And I punished them often in all the synagogues and tried to make them blaspheme, and in raging fury against them I persecuted them even to foreign cities.

### **TRANSITION**

So, this wasn't a one-time, wild weekend in Vegas...

No, this was Paul's all-consuming passion and reason for existence.

This is **SLIDE WHO HE WAS**

- So, how does that guy...
  - Become the foremost church planter in the known world?
  - Write more of the NT than any other author?
- How does that guy...with that resume...get this job?

Well that's what he covers next. Look at the rest of 13:

## 1 TIMOTHY 1:13b-14

But I received mercy because I had acted ignorantly in unbelief, [14] and the grace of our Lord overflowed for me with the faith and love that are in Christ Jesus.

### POINT 2: WHO HE IS

So, this is the transition.

- Paul goes from WHO HE WAS...
- to now, **SLIDE WHO HE IS**

And Paul uses two words in these verses...

- that we can become numb to in church,
- because of their overuse.

Paul received **MERCY** and **GRACE**.

- What is MERCY?
  - It is the capacity by which...
  - God DOES NOT give to an individual...
  - what they deserve.
- What is GRACE? It's the flip side.
  - It is the capacity by which...
  - God gives to an individual...
  - what they DO NOT deserve.

So, MERCY is NOT getting what you deserve.

And GRACE is getting what you DON'T deserve.

And Paul is saying,

- *"The very Christ who I was persecuting...*
  - *woke me up on the Damascus road...*
  - *the scales fell from my eyes...*



- *and he overwhelmed me with an abundance...*
- *of his MERCY and GRACE!"*

That's WHO HE IS

## TRANSITION

Now, here's the main message Paul wants Timothy to know...  
in this biographical sketch.

Verse 15:

## 1 TIMOTHY 1:15

[15] The saying is trustworthy and deserving of full acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners, of whom I am the foremost.

## EXPLAIN: CHIEF OF SINNERS

If you underline in your bible, that's one to mark or highlight or whatever!

WHO PAUL WAS...and then WHO PAUL IS...

- is completely based upon WHAT CHRIST DID!
  - Which he sums up as:

■ Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners.

And actually, Jesus says a similar thing in Matthew 9 when he says,

- *"Those who are well have no need of a physician,*
  - *but those who are sick.*
- *For I came not to call the righteous, but sinners."*

But then note that Paul adds: of whom I am the foremost.

- Some translations say THE CHIEF OF SINNERS.

And that's where things get tricky.

'Cause, is he really?

- I mean...really? The chief?
- Like, bro did some stuff, for sure.
  - But he's not a mass-murderer.
  - He's not a rapist.
  - He's not the dictator of a genocidal regime.

Actually, he was a prestigiously religious guy.

- Paul was a Pharisee.
  - He was a Hebrew of Hebrews.
  - He had been circumcised on the 8th day.
  - A member of the tribe of Benjamin.
- He had been under the tutelage of Gamaliel.
  - He went to all the right schools,
  - did all the right things,
  - kept all the right laws.

Now, of course...

- in all his Jewish Pharisaical zealousness...
- he had persecuted Christ followers.

## **EXPLAIN: IGNORANCE**

But look back at verse 13 once more.

He says:

- I was a blasphemer, persecutor, and insolent opponent...
- but I received mercy because I had acted ignorantly in unbelief.

So, that's where things don't line up.

- Ignorance means he didn't know any better!

Like, you can blaspheme God...in ignorance.

- Why did Paul blaspheme Jesus Christ?
  - Because he didn't know that Jesus...
  - was who he claimed to be.

And you can even persecute...in ignorance.

- So yes, Paul persecuted Christians...
  - but he genuinely thought he was doing that...
  - because he was trying to please God.

### **EXPLAIN: HUBRIS**

His ignorance actually softens the blow. So, why then, is he the worst?

Well, in verse 13,

- the third accolade he lists after **blasphemer**,
- and **persecutor**,
  - is **insolent opponent**.

And that's an incredibly strong word in the Greek...

- and it's a really difficult word to translate...
- which is why it is translated into so many different words...
  - in our English translations.

It's been translated:

- *Insolent opponent...*
- *Violent man...*
- *Arrogant man...*
- *A cruel and abusive man...*

But in the Greek it's actually the word (hoo-bris-tace') *hybristēs*...

- from the root word *hubris*,
- which is the Greek word for *pride*.

And in this form, this word means:

- one who is capable of the most insulting,
  - violent,
    - and humiliating treatment
      - of those with whom they disagreed.

It's a prideful trampler of people.

So, what Paul is saying is...

- *"I was SO GOOD at being good.*
  - *I didn't lie.*
  - *I didn't cheat.*
    - *I would never abuse women,*
      - *or children,*
      - *or the marginalized.*
  - *I knew the scriptures.*
  - *I went to synagogue.*
  - *I prayed my head off.*
    - *I read,*
    - *and learned,*
    - *and memorized.*
  - *I obeyed even to the point of...*
    - *radical blasphemy and persecution.*
- *But the underlying reason I did them was hubris.*
- *I did all those good things...*
- *because I desperately wanted to feel superior to everyone else.*
  - *And because I was good at being good...*
  - *I did feel superior...*
- *and so, I trampled on people."*

Paul is saying:

- there was something in his heart...
- that was much deeper and darker...
- underneath even the best of his ignorant deeds.

His ignorance did not make him any less culpable.

Because we are **SLIDE SINNERS**

### EXPLAIN: SIN NATURE

- You see, underneath every sin...
- is a deeper and darker seed.

And it's what theologians call our SIN NATURE.

- You don't just SIN...
- no, you sin...BECAUSE of your nature.

So, if I asked you if you were a liar,

- you'd probably go, "No, I'm not a liar."

But if I asked if you ever lied,

- you'd probably go,
  - "Of course I lie.
    - Everyone does...
    - from time to time.
  - But I'm not a liar!
    - I just lie sometimes."

But you see, the Bible teaches that you don't just lie.

- You actually lie...BECAUSE you are a liar.

You don't just sin...

- you actually sin BECAUSE you're a sinner.

It's back to my nephew with the tic-tacs.

## ILLUSTRATION: ACORN

So, Tim Keller uses this illustration.

Take two acorns.

- The first acorn falls into a place...
  - with good soil,
  - good moisture,
  - and good light.
- The second acorn...
  - same type of acorn,
  - from the same tree...
    - falls into a cistern where there's no soil.
    - Where there's no moisture.
    - And where there's no light.

The first acorn grows into a mighty oak...the second acorn rots.

- So, which acorn had more vitality?
- Which acorn had more strength?
- Which acorn had more potential?

Well, they were both exactly the same!

So, what was the difference?

- It had nothing to do with the acorn.
- It had everything to do with the environment.

See, what the Bible is showing us...

- is that most of us don't grow up to become...
  - Mao...
  - or Stalin
  - or Hitler...
- but it's not for a lack of talent.

When Paul says, **I am the foremost of sinners...**

- he isn't feigning humility...
- it isn't hyperbolic exaggeration...

No, he's actually saying,

- *"There is nothing in me that's different...*
  - *in principle or power...*
    - *than is in the worst of sinners.*
- *Sure, my acorn hasn't shot up...*
  - *as huge as it could have...*
  - *under a different set of circumstances...*
- *but the acorn is no different."*

## **APPLICATION: GOOD NEWS!**

**And that's why Paul says it in the present tense...not the past tense.**

Did you see that?

- **He doesn't say, "I WAS the foremost of sinners."**
- **He said, "I AM the foremost."**

*"I am so totally depraved that even my ignorance is no excuse."*

- And, that's why Paul can call himself the foremost of sinners...
- and that's why you should, too. That acorn is in you.

But that's why the first half of verse 15 is SUCH GOOD NEWS!

- **The saying is trustworthy and deserving of full acceptance,**
- **that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners!**

That's who Jesus came for!

- He came for SINNERS.
  - YOU AND ME!
- And he offers us MERCY and GRACE.

## TRANSITION

Now, verse 16 is wild.

- So, Paul just said he's the worst...

Verse 16:

## 1 TIMOTHY 1:16

[16] But I received mercy for this reason, that in me, as the foremost, Jesus Christ might display his perfect patience as an example to those who were to believe in him for eternal life.

## EXPLAIN: THE BEST

So, what Paul just said is crazy!

He just said:

- *"I am the WORST of sinners...*
  - *THEREFORE...*
- *I am THE BEST example."*

*"I am the WORST and I am the BEST."*

It's not too obvious in our English.

- But the word *example* in our text...
- is a compound Greek word: (hoo-pah too-poh-sis) *hypotypōsis*.

Now, (too-poh) *typo* is where we get the word *type* or *typical*.

- So, it means a pattern.

But Paul doesn't just say that he's a *type* or *pattern* for us.

No, he says that he is the *hypo* (hoo-pah) *typo* (too-poh).

- He's the hyper-type.
- He's the hyper-pattern.
- He is the ultimate example of what being a Christian is.



Well, how is that possible?

How can he be the WORST and the BEST?

Romans 8:1...

## **SLIDE ROMANS 8:1**

[1] There is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus.

Paul is the *hyper-example* because:

- when we see his life we think,
  - “*man, this guy is the worst.*”
- But after experiencing the grace and mercy of Christ,
- we can’t help but think of him,
  - “*this guy is the best!*”

## **APPLICATION**

And that is true for you, too!

- It doesn’t matter what you’ve done!
- Grace and mercy are available to you.

Christian, no matter how bad you have been:

- there is therefore now no condemnation for you.

The gospel says to each and every person in here:

- YOU ARE THE WORST.
  - Whether you’re a sociopath...
  - or a Sunday school teacher...
  - or BOTH.

- You are the worst. A SINNER!
  - You are in need of mercy and grace.
- But when God gives you that MERCY and GRACE...
  - it transforms you to become THE BEST.

To quote the late Tim Keller:

**SLIDE** ***“You are far worse than you ever imagined,  
and far more loved than you could ever dream.”***

This is who we become when confronted with the mercy & grace of Jesus.

## TRANSITION

- So, how do you know if you, like Paul,
- have experienced God’s MERCY and GRACE?

Well, look at verse 17:

## 1 TIMOTHY 1:17

[17] To the King of the ages, immortal, invisible, the only God, be honor and glory forever and ever. Amen.

## POINT 3: WHO HE WORSHIPS

Now, commentators argue about why that verse is there.

- Did it move the argument along? No.
- Did it introduce another point? No.

So, what purpose does it serve in his biography?

Well, here’s what that verse is: it’s an OUTBURST OF PRAISE.

- Paul goes from WHO HE WAS...
- to WHO HE IS...
- and ends with **SLIDE WHO HE WORSHIPS**

Paul goes right into a doxology.

- He praises God.
- It's like he can't keep it at bay!

When Paul thinks about how horrendous a sinner he was...

- and how much God loved him...
  - and extended him mercy and grace...
- he can't help but overflow with joy and praise!

## APPLICATION

Friends,

- what is your response to the reality of...
  - Have you ever had an OUTBURST OF PRAISE like this?
- God's mercy and grace toward you?

## ILLUSTRATION: SUBARU

When I was a senior in high school,

- I had been following Christ for about a year...
  - and I was so hungry for God's Word...
  - that I started attending a Saturday night church...
  - where they preached through the Bible...
    - kinda like we do.
  - I just couldn't get enough.
- I wanted to understand as much about God as I could.

Well, one Saturday night, as I was driving home from the service,

- I put on a CD worship music in my Subaru.
- But in the midst of singing worship songs in my car...
- all the Bible crammed in my head from the sermon just clicked!

And I found myself weeping.

- Which is strange behavior for a 17-year-old guy.
  - Like, I literally had to pull over...
  - because I was crying so hard as I sang!

It was an OUTBURST of PRAISE!

## **APPLICATION: WARNING**

And church, don't hear me as some emotional, anti-intellectual guy.

- Shoot, we've covered multiple Greek words today.
  - We need our brains!
  - And we want to go deep into this stuff...
- but sometimes an OUTBURST of PRAISE just happens!

Now, it doesn't have to be overly expressive with crying and tears.

- What it looks like depends heavily on your temperament.

But if you haven't had an outburst of praise...

- when you think of your sin and God's mercy and grace...
- then there's a warning for you in Luke chapter 7.

In Luke 7...

- Jesus comes to the house of Simon the Pharisee,
  - a religiously elite Jewish man.
- And as he reclined at table,
  - a woman of ill repute approached Jesus,
  - and kneeling at his feet,
  - she began to weep...
    - and she wet his feet with her tears,
    - and wiped them with her hair,
    - and anointed them with expensive perfume.

And Simon the Pharisee thinks, *“If only Jesus knew who this woman was!”*

- So, Jesus spoke a parable...
  - about a money lender with two debtors.
    - One owed 500 denarii,
    - the other 50.
  - And the money lender cancelled the debt of both of them.
- And Jesus asked Simon this question:

**SLIDE LUKE 7:42b-43**

Now which of them will love him more?” [43] Simon answered, “The one, I suppose, for whom he cancelled the larger debt.” And he said to him, “You have judged rightly.”

And then he said these words about the prostitute at his feet:

**SLIDE LUKE 7:47**

[47] Therefore I tell you, her sins, which are many, are forgiven—for she loved much. But he who is forgiven little, loves little.”

How much have you been forgiven? How much are you loved?

**CONCLUSION**

So, how do I finish up this sermon on **SLIDE W/PADS SINNERS**

Well, all of these things that Paul laid out:

- concerning WHO HE WAS...
- WHO HE IS...
- and WHO HE WORSHIPS...

All of that is predicated on the finished work of Jesus Christ on the cross.

The only reason why all this works...

- is because Jesus Christ FIRST became the worst!
  - He became the WORST...
  - so that you could become the BEST!

2 Corinthians 5:21 says this:

## **SLIDE 2 CORINTHIANS 5:21**

[21] For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

Now, that doesn't say that God made Jesus Christ sinful. No!

- It said that God made Jesus to BE SIN!

Jesus doesn't become a sinner...

- like Paul was...
  - a mix of good and bad...
  - ignorance mixed with hubris.

No. On the cross, God treated Jesus like he was sin itself.

- He became the worst...
  - the very worst of all of us...
    - he made him to BE SIN!
- God poured out all of his wrath toward sin on Jesus.
- So that we might become his righteousness...the BEST.

And that's what Paul is saying today.

- *"The message that changed me from the WORST of sinners...*
- *to the BEST example in the world is this:*
- *Christ Jesus came into the world to save **SLIDE SINNERS.**"*

Do you believe this?

I mean, deep down at the core of your soul, do you believe this?

- Have you ever really reckoned with...
  - how much of a sinner you are?
- And have you ever really reckoned with...
  - how amazing God's mercy and grace are?

You'll know by how you praise.

- *You are far worse than you ever imagined,*
- *and far more loved than you could ever dream.*

Let's pray.

## RESPONSES:

Well, every week at Fathom we respond in 4 ways:

- COMMUNION – THE LORD’S SUPPER
- GIVING TITHES & OFFERINGS – [fathomchurch.org/give](http://fathomchurch.org/give)
- PRAYER
- SINGING

So, I’m going to read the Words of Institution from the Apostle Paul, we’ll take communion, and then we’ll sing:

### 1 CORINTHIANS 11:23–26 – WORDS OF INSTITUTION

[23] For I received from the Lord what I also delivered to you, that the Lord Jesus on the night when he was betrayed took bread, [24] and when he had given thanks, he broke it, and said, “This is my body, which is for you. Do this in remembrance of me.” **TAKE**

[25] In the same way also he took the cup, after supper, saying, “This cup is the new covenant in my blood. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me.” **TAKE**

[26] For as often as you eat this bread and drink the cup, you proclaim the Lord’s death until he comes.

Love you church, let’s stand and sing together.



## RESOURCES CONSULTED:

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