

# 1 Timothy 6:3

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

If any man teach otherwise, and consent not to wholesome words, even the words of our Lord Jesus Christ, and to the doctrine which is according to godliness;

## Analysis

**If any man teach otherwise, and consent not to wholesome words, even the words of our Lord Jesus Christ** (εἴ τις ἐτεροδιδασκαλεῖ καὶ μὴ προσέρχεται ὑγιαίνουσιν λόγοις τοῖς τοῦ κυρίου ἡμῶν Ἰησοῦ Χριστοῦ, εἰ τις heterodidaskalei kai mē proserchetai hygiainousin logois tois tou kyriou hēmōn Iēsou Christou)—'if anyone teaches a different doctrine and does not agree with the sound words of our Lord Jesus Christ.' Heterodidaskaleo means to teach different doctrine. Hygiainō means to be healthy, sound.

**And to the doctrine which is according to godliness** (καὶ τῇ κατ' εὐσέβειαν διδασκαλίᾳ, kai tē kat' eusebeian didaskalia)—'and the teaching that accords with godliness.' Sound doctrine produces godly living. The false teachers in Ephesus taught novelties that didn't lead to eusebeia (godliness, piety) but to speculation and strife (1:4, 6:4).

The test of sound doctrine: does it align with Jesus' words and produce godliness? Teaching that contradicts Christ or fails to promote practical holiness is false, regardless of intellectual sophistication. Truth and life are inseparable—right belief leads to right living.

## Historical Context

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The Ephesian false teachers promoted genealogies, myths, and ascetic practices (1:4, 4:3) that sounded spiritual but produced pride, controversy, and division rather than love and godliness. Paul insists authentic teaching must align with Jesus' words (the gospel tradition) and produce Christlike character. Theology divorced from godly living is dangerous deception.

## Related Passages

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**Matthew 25:31** — Final judgment

**Romans 2:1** — Judging others

## Study Questions

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1. How does sound doctrine differ from false teaching—what are the marks of healthy teaching?
2. Why does Paul insist doctrine must 'accord with godliness'—why link belief and behavior?
3. What contemporary teachings contradict Christ or fail to produce godliness?

## Interlinear Text

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εἴ τις ἐτεροδιδασκαλεῖ καὶ μὴ προσέρχεται ὑγιαίνουσιν  
G1487 G5100 **teach otherwise** and not **consent** to **wholesome**  
G2085 G2532 G3361 G4334 G5198

λόγοις τοῖς τοῦ κυρίου ἡμῶν Ἰησοῦ Χριστοῦ  
words G3588 G3588 Lord even the words of our Jesus Christ  
G3056 G2962 G2257 G2424 G5547

καὶ τῇ κατ' εὐσέβειαν διδασκαλίᾳ  
and G3588 which is according to godliness to the doctrine  
G2532 G2596 G2150 G1319

## Additional Cross-References

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**1 Timothy 1:3** (Parallel theme): As I besought thee to abide still at Ephesus, when I went into Macedonia, that thou mightest charge some that they teach no other doctrine,

**1 Timothy 1:10** (Parallel theme): For whoremongers, for them that defile themselves with mankind, for menstealers, for liars, for perjured persons, and if there be any other thing that is contrary to sound doctrine;

**Titus 1:9** (Word): Holding fast the faithful word as he hath been taught, that he may be able by sound doctrine both to exhort and to convince the gainsayers.

**Romans 16:17** (Parallel theme): Now I beseech you, brethren, mark them which cause divisions and offences contrary to the doctrine which ye have learned; and avoid them.

**2 Timothy 4:3** (Parallel theme): For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine; but after their own lusts shall they heap to themselves teachers, having itching ears;

**Titus 1:1** (References Jesus): Paul, a servant of God, and an apostle of Jesus Christ, according to the faith of God's elect, and the acknowledging of the truth which is after godliness;

**2 Timothy 1:13** (Word): Hold fast the form of sound words, which thou hast heard of me, in faith and love which is in Christ Jesus.