

Lessons from I Timothy

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The Purpose in our Preaching

I Timothy 1:1 Paul, an apostle of Jesus Christ by the commandment of God our Saviour, and Lord Jesus Christ, *which is our hope*; 2 Unto Timothy, *my own son in the faith*: Grace, mercy, *and* peace, from God our Father and Jesus Christ our Lord. 3 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,** 4 Neither give heed to fables and endless genealogies, which minister questions, rather than godly edifying which is in faith: *so do*.

1. There is right and wrong doctrine or teaching I Timothy 1:3
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,**

- a. Put them in remembrance of these things [I Timothy 4:6](#) If thou **put the brethren in remembrance** of these things, **thou shalt be a good minister** of Jesus Christ, nourished up in the words of faith and of good doctrine, whereunto thou hast attained.
- i. In the last days there will be devilish teachings [I Timothy 4:1](#) Now the Spirit speaketh expressly, that in the latter times some shall depart from the faith, **giving heed to seducing spirits, and doctrines of devils;**
- ii. Forbid to marry [I Timothy 4:3](#) **Forbidding to marry**, *and commanding* to abstain from meats, which God hath created to be received with thanksgiving of them which believe and know the truth.
- iii. Forbidding certain foods [I Timothy 4:3](#) Forbidding to marry, *and* **commanding to abstain from**

meats, which God hath created to be received with thanksgiving of them which believe and know the truth.

b. These things command and teach [I Timothy 4:11](#) These things command and teach.

i. Living a godly life [I Timothy 4:8](#) For bodily exercise profiteth little: but **godliness is profitable unto all things**, having promise of the life that now is, and of that which is to come.

ii. That He is the Savior of all men [I Timothy 4:10](#) For therefore we both labour and suffer reproach, because we trust in the living God, **who is the Saviour of all men**, specially of those that believe.

c. Give in charge [I Timothy 5:7](#) And **these things give in charge**, that they may be blameless.

i. Be concerned about doctrine [I Timothy 4:16](#) **Take heed unto thyself, and unto the doctrine;** continue in them: for in doing this thou shalt both save thyself, and them that hear thee.

- ii. Treat others right in the church [I Timothy 5:1](#) Rebuke not an elder, but **intreat *him* as a father; and the younger men as brethren; 2** The **elder women as mothers;** the **younger as sisters,** with all purity.
- d. Charge them [I Timothy 6:17](#) **Charge them** that are rich in this world, that they be not highminded, nor **trust in** uncertain riches, but in **the living God,** who giveth us richly all things to enjoy;
 - i. Not to be proud [I Timothy 6:17](#) **Charge them** that are rich in this world, that they be **not highminded,** nor trust in uncertain riches, but in the living God, who giveth us richly all things to enjoy;
 - ii. To do good [I Timothy 6:18](#) That they **do good,** that they be rich in good works, ready to distribute, willing to communicate;
- e. Some are preaching another gospel or false gospel [Galatians 1:6](#) I marvel that ye are so soon removed from

him that called you into the grace of Christ **unto**

another gospel: 7 Which is **not another;**

but there be some that trouble you, and would

pervert the gospel of Christ. 8 But though

we, or an angel from heaven, **preach any other**

gospel unto you than that which we have preached

unto you, **let him be accursed.** 9 As we said

before, so say I now again, If any *man* preach any other

gospel unto you than that ye have received, **let him**

be accursed.

f. Cast doubt on the doctrine of Christ 2 John 7 For **many**

deceivers are entered into the world, **who**

confess not that Jesus Christ is come

in the flesh. This is a deceiver and an antichrist. 8

Look to yourselves, that we lose not *those things* which

we have wrought, but *that* we receive a full reward.9

Whosoever transgresseth, and

**abideth not in the doctrine of Christ,
hath not God.** He that abideth in the doctrine of
Christ, he hath both the Father and the Son.

2. Many waste time with useless questions and arguments

I Timothy 1:4 Neither give heed to fables and endless
genealogies, which **minister questions**, rather
than godly edifying which is in faith: *so do*.

a. Characteristics of these time wasters

i. They don't even understand what they say

I Timothy 1:7 Desiring to be teachers of the law;

**understanding neither what they
say, nor whereof they affirm.**

ii. Proud know nothings with corrupt minds that are

destitute of the truth **I Timothy 6:4** **He is proud,**

knowing nothing, but doting about questions
and strifes of words, whereof cometh envy, strife,
railings, evil surmisings,

iii. Ever learning but never coming to the truth

II Timothy 3:7 Ever learning, and never able to come to the knowledge of the truth.

iv. Teach for money Titus 1:11 Whose mouths must be stopped, who subvert whole houses, teaching things which they ought not, **for filthy lucre's sake.**

b. The Disciple's reaction

i. Withdraw yourself from them I Timothy 6:3 **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; 4 He is proud, knowing nothing, but doting about questions and strifes of words, whereof cometh envy, strife, railings, evil surmisings, 5 Perverse disputings of men of corrupt minds, and destitute of the truth, supposing that gain is godliness: **from such withdraw thyself.**

ii. Rebuke sharply Titus 1:13-14 This witness is true. **Wherefore rebuke them sharply,** that

they may be sound in the faith; 14 Not giving heed to Jewish fables, and commandments of men, that turn from the truth.

3. The purpose or goal of Bible teaching and preaching is to build strong Christian leaders or disciples I Timothy 1:4 Neither give heed to fables and endless genealogies, which minister questions, **rather than godly edifying** which is in faith: *so do*.

- a. Every person should be perfect or mature in Christ Colossians 1:28 Whom we preach, warning every man, and teaching every man in all wisdom; **that we may present every man perfect in Christ Jesus:**
- b. The goal is to be rooted, built up in him, established in faith Colossians 2:6 As ye have therefore received Christ Jesus the Lord, *so walk ye in him:* 7 **Rooted and built up in him, and stablished in the faith,** as ye have been taught, abounding therein with

thanksgiving. 8 Beware lest any man spoil you through philosophy and vain deceit, after the tradition of men, after the rudiments of the world, and not after Christ. 9 For in him dwelleth all the fulness of the Godhead bodily. 10 And **ye are complete in him**, which is the head of all principality and power: 11 In whom also ye are circumcised with the circumcision made without hands, in putting off the body of the sins of the flesh by the circumcision of Christ:

- c. Not be easily swayed or deceived Ephesians 4:14 That we *henceforth* **be no more children**, tossed to and fro, and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the sleight of men, *and* cunning craftiness, whereby they lie in wait to deceive;
- d. Become mature enough to be involved in the work of God Ephesians 4:12 For the perfecting of the saints, **for the work of the ministry**, for the edifying of the body of Christ:
- e. Every part of the body working effectively Ephesians 4:16 From whom the whole body **fitly joined**

together and compacted by that which **every**
joint supplieth, according to the
effectual working in the measure
of **every** part, maketh increase of
the body unto the **edifying** of
itself in love.

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Breaking Out of the Christian Cocoon

I Timothy 1:5 Now the end of the commandment is charity out of a pure heart, and of a good conscience, and of faith unfeigned: 6 From which some having swerved have turned aside unto vain jangling;

1. Why the commandment? I Timothy 1:5 Now the **end of the commandment** is charity out of a pure heart, and of a good conscience, and of faith unfeigned:

a. God wants all men everywhere to know and serve Him I

Timothy 2:4 Who will have **all men to be saved,** and **to come unto the**

knowledge of the truth. 5 For *there is* one

God, and one mediator between God and men, the man

Christ Jesus; 6 Who gave himself a **ransom for**

all, to be testified in due time. Titus 2:11 For the grace

of God that bringeth salvation hath **appeared to**

all men, Hebrews 2:9 But we see Jesus, who was

made a little lower than the angels for the suffering of death, crowned with glory and honour; that he by the grace of God should **taste death for every**

man. II Peter 3:9 The Lord is not slack concerning his promise, as some men count slackness; but is longsuffering to us-ward, **not willing that any should perish,** but that all should come to repentance.

- b. God commands us to go to them Mark 16:15 And he said unto them, **Go ye** into all the world, **and preach** the gospel to every creature. Matthew 28:18 And Jesus came and spake unto them, saying, **All power is given unto me** in heaven and in earth. 19 **Go ye** therefore, and **teach all nations,** baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: 20 Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you alway, *even* unto the end of the world. Amen.

John 20:21 Then said Jesus to them again, Peace *be* unto

you: **as *my* Father hath sent me, even so send I you.**

c. Paul became all things to all men that by all means he might save some **I Corinthians 9:22** To the weak became I as weak, that I might gain the weak: I am made all things to all *men*, **that I might by all means save some.**

d. It should embarrass us that some do not know God **I Corinthians 15:34** Awake to righteousness, and sin not; for some have not the knowledge of God: **I speak *this* to your shame.**

2. Love out of a pure heart **I Timothy 1:5** Now the end of the commandment is charity **out of a pure heart**, and *of* a good conscience, and *of* faith unfeigned:

a. The world will know we are his because of our love one for another **John 13:35** By this shall all *men* know that ye

are my disciples, if ye have **love one to another.**

- b. We are to have only one debt—to love **Romans 13:8** Owe no man any thing, but **to love one another:** for he that loveth another hath fulfilled the law.
- c. No matter how much we know or what we do if we do not love it has no value **I Corinthians 13:1** Though I speak with the tongues of men and of angels, and **have not charity,** I am become *as* sounding brass, or a tinkling cymbal. **2** And though I have *the gift of* prophecy, and understand all mysteries, and all knowledge; and though I have all faith, so that I could remove mountains, and **have not charity,** I am nothing. **3** And though I bestow all my goods to feed *the poor,* and though I give my body to be burned, and **have not charity,** it profiteth me nothing.
- d. We are told to even love our enemies **Matthew 5:44** But I say unto you, **Love your enemies,** bless them

that curse you, do good to them that hate you, and pray for them which despitefully use you, and persecute you;

e. Loving people who do not know and love God doesn't hurt my relationship to God

3. Do right, be right just don't offend **I Timothy 1:5** Now the end of the commandment is charity out of a pure heart, and **of a good conscience**, and of faith unfeigned:

a. Live your convictions and obey your conscience

Romans 14:21 *It is good neither to eat flesh, nor to drink wine, **nor any thing whereby thy brother stumbleth**, or is offended, or is made weak.*

b. Don't expect maturity from lost people **Psalms 51:13**

Then will I teach transgressors thy ways; And sinners shall be converted unto thee.

c. Give them time to grow in grace **Genesis 33:13** And he said unto him, My lord knoweth that the children *are* **tender**, and the flocks and herds **with young** *are* with me: and if men should **overdrive them**

one day, all the flock will die. 14 Let my lord, I pray thee, pass over before his servant: and I will **lead on softly,** according as the cattle that goeth before me and the children **be able to endure,** until I come unto my lord unto Seir.

d. Remember they are hurting Psalms 142:4 I looked on *my* right hand, and beheld, But *there was* **no man that would know me:** Refuge failed me; **No man cared for my soul.**

e. Do not have a Pharisee attitude Romans 2:1 Therefore thou art **inexcusable,** O man, whosoever thou art that judgest: for **wherein thou judgest another, thou condemnest thyself;** for thou that judgest doest the same things. 21 Thou therefore which teachest another, **teachest thou not thyself?** thou that preachest a man should not steal, dost thou steal? 22 Thou that sayest a man should

not commit adultery, dost thou commit adultery? thou that abhorrest idols, dost thou commit sacrilege? ²³ Thou that makest thy boast of the law, through breaking the law dishonourest thou God?

4. Trust God to save and change them

- a. It is God that does the work ^{Philippians 1:6} Being confident of this very thing, that **he which hath begun a good work in you will perform *it*** until the day of Jesus Christ:
- b. God is working in them ^{Philippians 2:13} For **it is God which worketh in you** both to will and to do of *his* good pleasure.
- c. God will take them on to maturity ^{Romans 8:28} And we know that **all things work together for good** to them that love God, to them who are the called according to *his* purpose. ²⁹ For whom he did foreknow, **he also did predestinate *to be***

conformed to the image of his Son,

that he might be the firstborn among many brethren.

d. God will perfect His people **Psalms 138:8** **The Lord**

will perfect *that which* concerneth

me: Thy mercy, O Lord, *endureth* for ever: Forsake not the works of thine own hands.

e. He will do it **I Thessalonians 5:24** Faithful *is* he that

calleth you, **who also will do *it*.**

f. Get the word in them and He will do His work in them

through His word **I Thessalonians 2:13** For this cause also

thank we God without ceasing, because, when ye

received the word of God which ye heard of us, ye

received *it* not *as* the word of men, **but as it is in**

truth, the word of God, which

effectually worketh also in you that

believe.

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Teachers of the Law

I Timothy 1:7 Desiring to be **teachers of the law;** understanding neither what they say, nor whereof they affirm.
8 But we know that **the law is good, if a man use it lawfully;** 9 Knowing this, that **the law is not made for a righteous man,** but for the lawless and disobedient, for the ungodly and for sinners, for unholy and profane, for murderers of fathers and murderers of mothers, for manslayers, 10 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;

1. What is the law?

a. *A rule laid down for the guidance of an intelligent being, by an intelligent being having power over him*

b. The commandments that God gave through Moses

Exodus 24:12 And the Lord said unto Moses, Come up to me into the mount, and be there: and I will give thee

tables of stone, and a law, and commandments which I have written; that thou mayest teach them.

c. The Entire Old Testament

d. The Books of Moses, the law, the Pentateuch- Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers, and Deuteronomy

Luke 24:44 And he said unto them, These *are* the words which I spake unto you, while I was yet with you, that all things must be fulfilled, which were **written in the law of Moses,** and *in* the prophets, and *in* the psalms, concerning me.

i. Moral Law, 10 commandments

ii. Ceremonial Law, sacrifices, etc.

iii. Civil or Political Law, eye for an eye

2. Who was the law made for?

a. Not for the righteous **Romans 6:14** For sin shall not have dominion over you: for **ye are not under the law,** but under grace. **15** What then? shall we sin, because **we are not under the law,** but

under grace? God forbid. Galatians 5:18 But if ye be led of the Spirit, **ye are not under the law.**

- b. For the not righteous or unrighteous Galatians 3:10 For as many as are **of the works of the law are under the curse:** for it is written, Cursed *is* every one that continueth not in all things which are written in the book of the law to do them. 11 But that **no man is justified by the law in the sight of God,** *it is* evident: for, The just shall live by faith. 12 And the law is not of faith: but, The man that doeth them shall live in them. 13 Christ hath **redeemed us from the curse of the law,** being made a curse for us: for it is written, Cursed *is* every one that hangeth on a tree: 14 **That the blessing** of Abraham might come on the Gentiles **through Jesus Christ;** that we might receive the promise of

the Spirit **through faith.**

3. Correct use of the law **I Timothy 1:8** **But we know that the law *is* good, if a man use it lawfully;**

a. To make us see how sinful we are **Romans 5:20** Moreover **the law entered, that the offence might abound.** But where sin abounded, **grace did much more abound:**

b. To tell me what is sin **Romans 7:7** What shall we say then? *Is the law sin?* God forbid. Nay, **I had not known sin, but by the law:** for I had not known lust, **except the law had said,** Thou shalt not covet.

c. Our schoolmaster to bring us to Christ **Galatians 3:24** Wherefore the law was our **schoolmaster** *to bring us* unto Christ, that we might be justified by faith.

4. Mistakes that are often made by Christians with the law
- a. We become rule keepers or flesh walkers rather Spirit led and guided **Romans 7:6** But now we are delivered from the law, that being dead wherein we were held; that we should **serve in newness of spirit, and not in the oldness of the letter.**
 - b. They feel that God will love them more if they obey rules and regulations, that He will love them less if they do not obey the rules **Romans 5:20** Moreover the law entered, that the offence might abound. **But where sin abounded, grace did much more abound:** **21** That as sin hath reigned unto death, even so might grace reign through righteousness unto eternal life by Jesus Christ our Lord. **6:1** What shall we say then? **Shall we continue in sin, that grace may abound?** **2** God forbid. **How shall we, that are dead to sin, live any longer therein?**

- c. We use the law to measure ourselves and compare ourselves with others [II Corinthians 10:12](#) For we dare not make ourselves of the number, or **compare ourselves** with some that **commend themselves:** but they **measuring themselves by themselves,** and **comparing themselves among themselves,** are not wise.
- d. Become judgmental and critical of other Christians based on their rule list [Romans 14:4](#) **Who art thou that judgest another man's servant? to his own master he standeth or falleth.** Yea, he shall be holden up: for God is able to make him stand.

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Paul's Words to a Young Preacher!

Message to a young missionary leaving for the field

1. It is God who has given you this ministry [I Timothy 1:11](#)
According to the glorious gospel of the blessed God, which
was **committed to my trust.** [12](#) And I thank
Christ Jesus our Lord, who hath **enabled me**, for that
he **counted me faithful, putting me**
into the ministry;

- a. He is trusting you with His glorious gospel
 - i. So be careful to not hinder what He would do
 - ii. Be careful to carry the message
 - iii. Learn the language and well
 - iv. Learn the culture because you have been trusted with something great and awesome
- b. Remember that you will be able to do the work because He has enabled you

- c. He has watched your life and service and has counted you faithful
- d. He is the one that has put you in the ministry, not the church, not the pastor
- e. You serve at His pleasure and for His purposes, never forget that

2. You can go confidently because you know that saving souls is His purpose **I Timothy 1:15** *This is a faithful saying, and worthy of all acceptation, that **Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners;*** of whom I am chief.

- a. He wants all men to be saved **I Timothy 2:3** *For this is good and acceptable in the sight of God our Saviour; 4 Who will have **all men to be saved,** and to come unto the knowledge of the truth. 5 For *there is* one God, and one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus; 6 Who gave himself a **ransom for all,** to be testified in due time.*

b. That is why He made Paul a preacher **I Timothy 2:7**

Whereunto I am ordained a preacher, and an apostle, (I speak the truth in Christ, *and* lie not;) a teacher of the Gentiles in faith and verity.

3. Hold on to your faith and your good conscience

I Timothy 1:19 Holding faith, and a good

conscience; which some having put away concerning faith have made shipwreck:

- a. There will be books to read, people to talk to, and every opportunity to doubt the truth
- b. There will be long, lonely nights when temptation will come but you must do right
- c. Discouragement makes us think we have a right to do things we should never have done
- d. Temptation will be in your face so stay strong
- e. Continue working on your marriage

4. Be an example of all that the Lord teaches us to do

I Timothy 4:12 Let no man despise thy youth; but **be**

thou an example of the believers, in word, in conversation, in charity, in spirit, in faith, in purity.

- a. The new believers will not know how to act except from what they see in you
- b. They will not know how a Christian lives out his life except from your example
- c. Show great love
- d. Be above reproach

5. Watch your own spiritual life **I Timothy 4:16 Take**

heed unto thyself, and unto the doctrine; continue in them: for in doing this thou shalt both save thyself, and them that hear thee.

- a. Easy to think you have arrived and then crash
- b. Easy to not care for your spiritual life because you will be so busy doing other things
- c. You will be busier than deputation
- d. The language will make you want to cuss
- e. Be careful to not allow your doctrine to twist or be damaged because you see life like it really is instead of

the ivory tower you have lived in

6. Don't get involved with men too quickly **I Timothy 5:22 Lay hands suddenly on no man, neither be partaker of other men's sins: keep thyself pure.**
 - a. Everyone is going to want to be your friend. They want your money and your influence
 - b. You will want the ministry to get off the ground so quickly that you will not be as careful as you should be
 - c. Remember, the buck stops with you now
7. Be happy with whatever the Lord gives you **I Timothy 6:6 But godliness with contentment is great gain. 7 For we brought nothing into *this* world, and it is certain we can carry nothing out. 8 And having food and raiment let us be therewith content. 9 But they that will be rich fall into temptation and a snare, and into many foolish and hurtful lusts, which drown men in destruction and perdition. 10 For the love of money is the root of all evil: which while some coveted**

after, they have erred from the faith, and pierced themselves through with many sorrows. 11 But thou, O man of God, **flee these things**; and follow after righteousness, godliness, faith, love, patience, meekness.

- a. Don't be upset if you can't get the car you want
- b. Don't whine and complain in your prayer letters
- c. Don't want so much
- d. Learn to live and give
- e. Be happy with how God is blessing you and using you

8. Last words

- a. Love your wife. She is the most important person on this planet
 - i. Spend time with her
 - ii. Be patient with her
 - iii. Be overly expressive of your love
 - iv. Make her comfortable
 - v. Don't let her let you off the hook
- b. Be careful with your daughter
 - i. Love her
 - ii. Watch her

- iii. Train her, she is your most important disciple
 - iv. Let her know what a family is by watching you
 - v. Let her know how a woman should be treated by seeing how you treat her mom
- c. Wife love your husband
- i. Be careful to love him and respect him all the time
 - ii. He will be more discouraged than he thinks
 - iii. Believe in him and remind him of that
 - iv. Don't be a weight and bother but a blessing and help
 - v. Learn the language no matter what it takes
 - vi. Accept the people
- d. I want you both to know that I love you very much and respect you more than I can say!

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He Trusts You!

I Timothy 1:11-14 According to the glorious gospel of the blessed God, which was **committed to my trust.** 12 And I thank Christ Jesus our Lord, who hath enabled me, for that he **counted me faithful,** putting me into the ministry; 13 Who was before a blasphemer, and a persecutor, and injurious: but I obtained mercy, because I did *it* ignorantly in unbelief. 14 And the grace of our Lord was exceeding abundant with faith and love which is in Christ Jesus.

1. Our privilege—the gospel has been committed to our trust
 - a. It is a glorious gospel because God is glorified when an undeserving person gets forgiveness and mercy.

Ephesians 2:7 That in the ages to come he might shew the **exceeding riches of his grace** in his kindness toward us through Christ Jesus. Ephesians 1:6 To the praise of the glory of his grace, wherein he hath **made us accepted in the beloved.**

Ephesians 1:12 That we should be **to the praise of his glory**, who first trusted in Christ.

- b. The angels only get to desire to look into this service
I Peter 1:12 Unto whom it was revealed, that not unto themselves, but unto us they did minister the things, which are now reported unto you by them that have preached the gospel unto you with the Holy Ghost sent down from heaven; **which things the angels desire to look into.**
 - c. He chose to allow us to be His instruments and used of Him I Thessalonians 2:4 But as we were **allowed of God** to be put in trust with the gospel, even so we speak; not as pleasing men, but God, which trieth our hearts.
 - d. He allows us to participate in changing lives, giving hope, freeing people, caring or feeling for people, etc.
2. His power—He enables his workers or gives them the ability and power to do His work

a. Counted us faithful

b. Put us in the ministry **I Corinthians 15:10** But **by the grace of God** I am what I am: and his grace which was bestowed upon me was not in vain; but I laboured more abundantly than they all: yet not I, **but the grace of God which was with me.**

c. Gave us the ability to do His work **II Corinthians 12:9** And he said unto me, **My grace is sufficient** for thee: for my strength is made perfect in weakness. Most gladly therefore will I rather glory in my infirmities, that the **power of Christ may rest upon me.**
10 Therefore I take pleasure in infirmities, in reproaches, in necessities, in persecutions, in distresses for Christ's sake: for when I am weak, then am I strong.

3. In spite of your past—what you were before you met Christ

a. Religious, moral, good man ignorantly disobeying God

- b. Fresh start—born again **II Corinthians 5:17** Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new.
 - c. Mercy, grace, faith love
 - d. Never forget where you were and where He brought you from
4. My purpose—he trusts us to get His message out
- a. The story of Cornelius and Peter, Phillip and the Ethiopian Eunuch
 - b. He has given and committed this ministry to us
II Corinthians 5:18-19 And all things are of God, who hath reconciled us to himself by Jesus Christ, and hath **given to us the ministry of reconciliation;** **19** To wit, that God was in Christ, reconciling the world unto himself, not imputing their trespasses unto them; and hath **committed unto us the word of reconciliation.**
 - c. What attitude do you have? Are you willing? You feel the necessity but will there be a reward?

I Corinthians 9:16 For though I preach the gospel, I have nothing to glory of: for **necessity is laid upon me; yea, woe is unto me, if I preach not the gospel!** 17 For if I do this thing willingly, I have a reward: but if against my will, a dispensation of the gospel is committed unto me.

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Why He Came!

I Timothy 1:15 This is a faithful saying, and worthy of all acceptation, that **Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners;** of whom I am chief. 16

Howbeit for this cause I obtained mercy, that in me first Jesus Christ might shew forth all longsuffering, for a pattern to them which should hereafter believe on him to life everlasting.

1. His purpose in coming!

- a. He is the author of our salvation Hebrews 12:2 Looking unto **Jesus the author and finisher of our faith;** who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is set down at the right hand of the throne of God.
- b. From eternity past His purpose was to make those who would believe the sons of God John 1:1 In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. 12 But as many as received him, **to them**

gave he power to become the sons of God, *even to them that believe on his name:* 13

Which were born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God. 14 And the Word was made

flesh, and dwelt among us, (and we beheld his glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father,) full of grace and truth.

- c. From his birth His purpose was to save *Matthew 1:21* And she shall bring forth a son, and thou shalt call his name JESUS: for **he shall save his people from their sins.**
- d. He came to save the lost *Matthew 18:11* For the Son of man **is come to save that which was lost.**
- e. He came to give His life *Matthew 20:28* Even as the Son of man came not to be ministered unto, but to minister, and to **give his life a ransom for many.**

- f. He came to take away the sins of the world [John 1:29](#)
The next day John seeth Jesus coming unto him, and
saith, Behold the Lamb of God, which **taketh away
the sin of the world.**
- g. He came to save us when we were still in our sins
[Romans 5:6](#) For when we were **yet without
strength**, in due time Christ **died for the
ungodly.** [8](#) But God commendeth his love toward us,
in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.

2. His power to save and transform the very worst!

- a. Power to save the vilest of sinners [I Timothy 1:15](#) *This is*
a faithful saying, and worthy of all acceptation, that
**Christ Jesus came into the world to
save sinners;** of whom I am chief.
- b. Power to cleanse the dirtiest of sin stains [Isaiah 1:18](#)
Come now, and let us reason together, saith the Lord:
Though your sins be as scarlet, **they shall be as**

white as snow; Though they be red like crimson, they shall be as wool.

- c. His grace exceeds our sins **Romans 5:20** Moreover the law entered, that the offence might abound. But

where sin abounded, grace did much more abound:

- d. He came to for the helpless, sick, sinner **Mark 2:17** When Jesus heard *it*, he saith unto them, They that are whole have no need of the physician, but they that are sick: **I**

came not to call the righteous, but **sinners to repentance.**

3. The pattern of His saving power

- a. The most wicked can get saved and be transformed

I Timothy 1:15 This *is* a faithful saying, and worthy of all acceptation, that **Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners;** of whom I am chief.

- b. True salvation is for others also – He would show forth to others—He was saved to serve **I Timothy 1:16** **Howbeit**

for this cause I obtained mercy, that in me first Jesus Christ might shew forth all longsuffering, for **a pattern to them which should hereafter believe** on him to life everlasting.

c. The patience of the Lord with sinners **I Timothy 1:13** Who was before **a blasphemer, and a persecutor, and injurious:** but I obtained mercy, because I did *it* ignorantly in unbelief.

d. His mercy is exhibited because the chief of sinners is now the chief of saints **I Timothy 1:13** Who was before a blasphemer, and a persecutor, and injurious: but I obtained mercy, because I did *it* ignorantly in unbelief.

15 This *is* a faithful saying, and worthy of all acceptation, that **Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners;** of whom I am chief.

II Corinthians 11:5 For I suppose I was not a whit behind **the very chiefest apostles.**

e. His faith was to everlasting life **I Timothy 1:16** Howbeit for this cause I obtained mercy, that in me first Jesus

Christ might shew forth all longsuffering, for a pattern to them which should hereafter believe on him **to life everlasting.** Hebrews 9:12 Neither by the blood of goats and calves, but by his own blood he entered in once into the holy place, having obtained **eternal redemption for us.**

4. Your personal application of these truths

a. What should our purpose as believers be?

I Corinthians 15:34 **Awake to righteousness, and sin not; for some have not the knowledge of God: I speak this to your shame.**

b. Does He have the power to use me?

c. Will my life be a pattern for others?

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How to fight the good fight!

I Timothy 1:18-20

I. Keep the Faith 1:19

- a. Much more than just salvation a body of doctrine or teaching.
- b. Being who you are is based on believing—who you are in the interior man
- c. True salvation is based on a body of doctrine or teaching. Romans 10:13-17. To call is to believe because you hear because someone preached
- d. Hold fast to the sound or true words you have been taught II Timothy 1:13
- e. Hold on tight to the faithful words that you have been taught so you can teach or give instruction and convince or rebuke those who doubt Titus 1:9
- f. You should get a good hold on your faith and what the Bible teaches so that you can answer those who question or doubt the truth I Peter 3:15

II. Keep a good conscience 1:19

a. Our desire is to have a good conscience before God

Acts 23:1

b. A good conscience before God but also before men

Acts 24:16

c. Even the gentiles or lost people have a conscience that is based on the law of God written in their hearts

Romans 2:15

d. What testimony does your conscience give you II

Corinthians 1:12

e. Paul lived and preached so that all could approve II

Corinthians 4:2

f. This is our Do level or how we act and carry ourselves in front of others

III. Don't take your responsibility lightly

a. Delivering them to Satan was a severe step I

Corinthians 5:4-5

b. Blaspheme means to mock or take lightly

c. Arguing, vain or empty words, doubting the resurrection II Timothy 2:14-18

- d. Instead of holding fast to his faith in good conscience he stood against the truth and the man of God II Timothy 4:14-18
- e. This is our service level—how we take what we are, what we believe and put it into practice by doing right and then go on to serve God publicly.

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Words to the Young Preacher

I Timothy 1:18 **This charge** I commit unto thee, son Timothy, according to the prophecies which went before on thee, **that thou by them mightest war a good warfare;**

1. Consider some verses and truths with me so you can do a good job in the ministry that God has given you

I Timothy 1:18 **This charge** I commit unto thee, son Timothy, according to the prophecies which went before on thee, **that thou by them mightest war a good warfare;**

- a. You are in a war and must learn to fight
- b. God gave Jeremiah some words that might be encouraging Jeremiah 1:4 Then the word of the Lord came unto me, saying, 5 Before **I formed thee** in the belly I knew thee; and before thou camest forth out

of the womb **I sanctified thee, and I ordained thee** a prophet unto the nations. 6 Then said I, Ah, Lord God! behold, **I cannot speak:** for I *am* a child. 7 But the Lord said unto me, **Say not, I am a child:** for **thou shalt go to all that I shall send thee,** and whatsoever I command thee thou shalt speak. 8 **Be not afraid of their faces:** for I *am* with thee to deliver thee, saith the Lord. 9 Then the Lord put forth his hand, and touched my mouth. And the Lord said unto me, Behold, **I have put my words in thy mouth.**

- c. I know what it is like to be a young preacher
- d. I know the fears and insecurities. I often feel them now
- e. But you need to realize that though God said these words to a prophet in the Old Testament they are true for you today
- f. You will see that in the passages from Timothy that I want to show you

- g. God made you just like you are
- h. He chose you and is the One that really ordains you
- i. Go where He wants you to go and do what He has for you
- j. Don't be afraid of their faces
 - i. The faces of the lost
 - ii. The faces of the rich and powerful
 - iii. The faces of the poor
 - iv. The faces of the members
 - v. The faces of those that would hinder your ministry
- k. You are in a war.
 - i. It is a spiritual war
 - ii. The Devil will be playing with your mind
 - iii. Bring all your thoughts into captivity to the Lord Jesus

2. Study the books of I and II Timothy to know how to behave in the house of God **I Timothy 3:15** But if I tarry long, that thou mayest know how thou **oughtest to behave thyself in the house of God,** which is the church of the living God, the pillar and ground of the truth.
- a. Don't follow traditions

b. Study His Book to do it His way

3. Don't let your youth hinder you from serving God

I Timothy 4:12 Let no man **despise thy youth;**

a. Don't let the fact that you are young hinder you

i. Not in your heart and mind

ii. And not by giving others a reason to use it as an excuse

b. Be an example **but be thou an example of the believers,**

i. **in word,**

ii. **in conversation,**

iii. **in charity,**

iv. **in spirit,**

v. **in faith,**

vi. **in purity.**

c. Spend time in the Bible, reading for yourself and to your

people 13 Till I come, give **attendance to reading,**

- d. Be an encourager **to exhortation,**
- e. Teach Bible truth **to doctrine.**
- f. Don't waste the gifts that God has given you. Work at developing them **14 Neglect not the gift that is in thee,** which was given thee by prophecy, with the laying on of the hands of the presbytery.
- g. Think on these things that God is saying here **15 Meditate** upon these things;
- h. Give yourself completely to them **give thyself wholly** to them; that thy
- i. People will notice how God is blessing you and using you **profiting may appear to all.**
- j. Most of all be careful with yourself and make sure you do right. **16 Take heed unto thyself,** and unto the doctrine; continue in them: for in doing this thou shalt both save thyself, and them that hear thee.

4. Don't be afraid in the ministry **II Timothy 1:7** For God hath **not given us the spirit of fear;** but of

a. He has given you His power to work **power,**

b. He gives you the ability to love people that are hard to love **and of love,**

c. He gives you the ability to discipline yourself and think straight. You can bring your thoughts under captivity to Christ **and of a sound mind.**

d. Don't be embarrassed by Jesus and His teaching

II Timothy 1:8 Be **not** thou therefore **ashamed of the testimony of our Lord,** nor of me his

prisoner: but be thou partaker of the afflictions of the gospel according to the power of God; **9** Who hath saved us, and called *us* with an holy calling, not according to our works, but according to his own purpose and grace, which was given us in Christ Jesus before the world began,

5. You have to be tough to do this **II Timothy 2:1** Thou

therefore, my son, **be strong** in the grace that is in

Christ Jesus. 3 Thou therefore **endure hardness,**
as a good soldier of Jesus Christ.

- a. You are to be strong in grace not you
- b. You are to know that you will find this hard.
- c. Not an easy job
- d. You will need mental, emotional, and spiritual toughness to make it

6. Keep doing what you have been taught II Timothy 3:14 But **continue** thou in the things **which thou hast learned** and hast been **assured of**, knowing of whom thou hast learned *them*; 15 And that from a child thou hast known the **holy scriptures**, which are able to make thee wise unto salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus.

- a. You know what you are supposed to do
- b. You have been taught
- c. You have seen that it came from the Scriptures

7. Know it is worth it [II Timothy 4:5](#) But **watch** thou in all things, **endure afflictions**, do the work of an **evangelist**, make full **proof of thy ministry**. [6](#) For I am now ready to be offered, and the time of my departure is at hand. [7](#) I have fought a good fight, I have finished *my* course, I have kept the faith: [8](#) Henceforth there is laid up for me a **crown of righteousness**, which the Lord, the righteous judge, shall give me at that day: and not to me only, but unto **all them also that love his appearing**.

- a. It will be hard and you will endure difficulties
- b. Keep trying to win new people to Jesus
- c. Prove that God is working in you
- d. Know that God is going to reward you for His service to Him

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Warfare Praying

I Timothy 2:1-8

- I. We are told to pray 2:1
 - a. First for all men 2:1
 - b. I will that you pray 2:8
 - c. Therefore because some were shipwreck from their faith 2:1, 1:18-20
- II. We must pray right if we want God to hear us
 - a. Not a selfish prayer 2:1-2
 - b. Not fighting 2:8 It is warfare and there are those that make others shipwreck but have a right attitude
 - c. Not doubting 2:8 James 1:6-8
 - d. Not sinning 2:8
- III. Pray for the government 2:2
 - a. To govern right
 - b. So we can live right
 - c. So we can preach the truth 2:7
- IV. Pray for all men
 - a. To be saved 2:4
 - b. To learn the truth 2:4

- c. Because the God of Heaven wants all men to be saved
2:4
- d. The God of Heaven has provided the way 2:6
- e. This should give you purpose like it did Paul 2:7

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Good and Acceptable in His Sight

I Timothy 2:3 For this *is* **good and acceptable in the sight of God our Saviour;** 4 Who will have **all men to be saved,** and to come unto the knowledge of the truth. 5 For *there is* one God, and one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus; 6 Who **gave himself a ransom for all,** to be testified in due time. 7 **Whereunto I am ordained a preacher,** and an apostle, (I speak the truth in Christ, *and lie not;*) a teacher of the Gentiles in faith and verity.

1. God's will

- a. Is that all men be saved I Timothy 2:4 **Who will have all men to be saved,** and to come unto the knowledge of the truth.
 - i. He told all the ends of the earth to look unto Him and be saved Isaiah 45:22 **Look unto me, and be ye saved,**

all the ends of the earth: For I *am* God,
and *there is* none else.

ii. His grace has appeared to all men **Titus 2:11** For the
grace of God that bringeth **salvation hath**
appeared to all men,

iii. He is not willing that any should perish **II Peter 3:9** The
Lord is not slack concerning his promise, as some men
count slackness; but is longsuffering to us-ward, **not**
willing that any should perish, but
that all should come to repentance.

iv. He told His church to tell the world **Matthew 28:19** Go
ye therefore, and teach **all nations,** baptizing
them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of
the Holy Ghost: **20** Teaching them to observe all things
whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with
you alway, *even* unto the end of the world. Amen.

v. They were to tell every creature **Mark 16:15** And he
said unto them, Go ye into **all the world,** and
preach the gospel to **every creature.**

vi. He said whosoever shall call on the name of the Lord shall be saved **Romans 10:13** For **whosoever** shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved. **14** How then shall they call on him in whom they have not believed? and how shall they believe in him of whom they have not heard? and how shall they hear without a preacher? **15** And how shall they preach, except they be sent? as it is written, How beautiful are the feet of them that preach the gospel of peace, and bring glad tidings of good things! **16** But they have not all obeyed the gospel. For Esaias saith, Lord, who hath believed our report? **17** So then **faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.**

b. Is that all men come to the knowledge of the truth

I Timothy 2:4 Who will have **all men to be saved,** and to come unto the knowledge of the truth.

- i. That all have sinned **Romans 3:10** As it is written, There is none righteous, no, not one: **23** For **all have sinned,** and come short of the glory of God;
- ii. That there is a payment for sin **Romans 6:23** For the wages of sin *is* death; but **the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.**
- iii. That Jesus loves us even in our sins **Romans 5:6** For when we were yet **without strength,** in due time Christ died for the **ungodly.** **8** But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, **while we were yet sinners,** Christ died for us.
- iv. That salvation is a free gift by His grace **Ephesians 2:8** For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: **it is the gift of God:** **9** Not of works, lest any man should boast.

2. God's gift

- a. He gave Himself a ransom for all **I Timothy 2:6** Who gave himself **a ransom for all,** to be testified in due time.
- b. He died for all **II Corinthians 5:14** For the love of Christ constraineth us; because we thus judge, that **if one died for all,** then were all dead:
- c. He tasted death for every man **Hebrews 2:9** But we see Jesus, who was made a little lower than the angels for the suffering of death, crowned with glory and honour; that he by the grace of God **should taste death for every man.**
- d. He paid the price for our sins but not for our only **I John 2:2** And he is the propitiation for our sins: and not for ours only, but also for ***the sins of the whole world.***
- e. He takes away the sin of the world **John 1:29** The next day John seeth Jesus coming unto him, and saith, Behold

the Lamb of God, which **taketh away the sin of the world.**

- f. He draws all men to Him [John 12:32](#) And I, if I be lifted up from the earth, **will draw all *men* unto me.**

3. What your involvement or role in what is good acceptable to Him

- a. Whereunto—Paul says based on that I am a preacher
b. Some have not the knowledge of God

[I Corinthians 15:34](#) Awake to righteousness, and sin not; for some have not the knowledge of God: **I speak *this* to your shame.**

- c. We must go and compel them to come in [Luke 14:23](#) And the lord said unto the servant, Go out into the highways and hedges, and compel *them* to come in, **that my house may be filled.**

- d. How does the knowledge of His will and what is good and acceptable affect the way you live

- i. The way you pray
- ii. The way you serve God
- iii. The way you give
- iv. The way you go
- v. The way you grow as a Christian, are you involved in discipleship, reaching others, making an impact on the lives of others

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Women's Ministry

I Timothy 2:9 **In like manner** also, that **women** adorn themselves in modest apparel, with shamefacedness and sobriety; not with broided hair, or gold, or pearls, or costly array; 10 But (**which becometh women professing godliness**) with good works.

1. Spiritual Preparation

a. Women also are to pray, in like manner or in holiness, without wrath and doubting I Timothy 2:9 **In like**

manner also, that women adorn themselves in modest apparel, with shamefacedness and sobriety; not with broided hair, or gold, or pearls, or costly array;

I Timothy 2:8 I will therefore that men pray every where, lifting up **holy hands, without wrath and doubting.**

- b. Dressed in modesty and not showy **I Timothy 2:9** In like manner also, that women **adorn themselves in modest apparel**, with **shamefacedness** and **sobriety**; not with broided hair, or gold, or pearls, or costly array;
- c. Shamefacedness or honorable shame or embarrassment
- d. Sobriety or self restraint
- e. Godliness
- f. Respectful of godly leadership

2. Good works are to be part of the Christian life

I Timothy 2:10 But (which becometh women professing godliness) **with good works.**

- a. We were created and saved to do good works

Ephesians 2:10 For we are his workmanship, **created in Christ Jesus unto good works**, which God hath before ordained that we should walk in them.

- b. He wants a people that are zealous (excited about) of good works **Titus 2:14** Who gave himself for us, that he

might redeem us from all iniquity, and purify unto himself a peculiar people, **zealous of good works.**

- c. We are to be concerned about maintaining good works
Titus 3:8 *This is a faithful saying, and these things I will that thou affirm constantly, that they which have believed in God might be careful to **maintain good works.*** These things are good and profitable unto men.
- d. People who do not know God should be able to see our good works **I Peter 2:12** *Having your conversation honest among the Gentiles: that, whereas they speak against you as evildoers, they may **by your good works,*** which they shall behold, glorify God in the day of visitation.
- e. We are to provoke each other to good works
Hebrews 10:24 *And let us consider one another to provoke unto love and to **good works:*** **25** *Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as the manner of some *is*; but exhorting *one another*: and so*

much the more, as ye see the day approaching.

3. A woman adorned with good works

- a. Dorcas is an example to all Christians of good works

Acts 9:36 Now there was at Joppa a certain disciple

named **Tabitha**, which by interpretation is called

Dorcas: this woman was **full of good works**

and almsdeeds which she did. **37** And it came to

pass in those days, that **she was sick, and**

died: whom when they had washed, they laid *her* in an

upper chamber. **38** And forasmuch as Lydda was nigh to

Joppa, and the disciples had heard that Peter was there,

they sent unto him two men, desiring *him* that he would

not delay to come to them. **39** Then Peter arose and went

with them. When he was come, they brought him into the

upper chamber: and **all the widows stood by**

him weeping, and shewing the coats

and garments which Dorcas made,

while she was with them.

- b. Expected of the godly widow **I Timothy 5:9** Let not a widow be taken into the number under threescore years old, having been the wife of one man, **10 Well reported of for good works;** if she have **brought up children,** if she have lodged strangers, if she have washed the saints' feet, if she have relieved the afflicted, if she have diligently followed every good work.
- c. Being a help meet to her husband **Genesis 2:18** And the Lord God said, *It is* not good that the man should be alone; I will make him **an help meet for him.**
- d. Raising godly children **Psalms 127** Except the Lord build the house, they labour in vain that build it: Except the Lord keep the city, the watchman waketh *but* in vain. **2 It is** vain for you to rise up early, to sit up late, To eat the bread of sorrows: *For* so he giveth his beloved sleep. **3** Lo, children *are* an heritage of the Lord: *And* the fruit of the womb *is his* reward. **4 As arrows are in the hand of a mighty man; So are**

children of the youth. 5 Happy *is* the man that hath his quiver full of them: They shall not be ashamed, But they shall speak with the enemies in the gate.

e. Motivating others to do great things—Deborah

f. Teaching other women and children Titus 2:3 The **aged women likewise**, that *they be* in behaviour as becometh holiness, not false accusers, not given to much wine, teachers of good things; 4 That they may **teach the young women** to be sober, to love their husbands, to love their children, 5 *To be* discreet, chaste, keepers at home, good, obedient to their own husbands, that the word of God be not blasphemed.

g. Seek the Lord, look at your talents, abilities, likes, and dislikes and see where you fit in to serve the Lord

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Biblical Modesty

I Timothy 2:9-10

1. It is more important to work on beautifying your inner person than your outer man I Peter 3:3-5
 - a. Not the outward adorning
 - b. The hidden man of the heart
 - c. A meek and quiet spirit
2. There is clothing that a godly lady should not wear Proverbs 7:10
3. Godly women are to dress in modesty
 - a. The definition of the word--modesty!
 - i. Properly, restrained by a sense of propriety; hence, not forward or bold; not presumptuous or arrogant; not boastful; as a modest youth; a modest man.
 - ii. Not bold or forward; as a modest maid. The word may be thus used without reference to chastity.

iii. Not loose; not lewd.

iv. Moderate; not excessive or extreme; not extravagant; as a modest request; modest joy; a modest computation.

b. With shamefacedness—bashfulness, blushing due to viewing sin as repulsive

c. With sobriety—seriousness, sound mind, self control

4. Men are commanded not to look at a woman and think improper thoughts Matthew 5:22-28

a. David fell into sin due to looking and thinking thoughts about Bathsheba

b. The prostitute knew how to dress so that men would know who she was and to get the attention of men

c. Should a godly woman be careful not to call attention to her body

The [world's] attitude is if you've got it, flaunt it," she said.

"Leave as little to the imagination as possible. Regenerate Christian women, I don't believe, leave home with this attitude. We seek to live godly, holy lives."

Nevertheless, immodest dress is a problem in local churches on Sunday mornings, Mohler said. Women may not have a worldly attitude about modesty, but because of naivete, carelessness, busy lifestyles or cultural pressures, some women unknowingly dress immodestly, she said.

She told how she once visited a church that had a dress code.

"I applaud them that they have the boldness to have a dress code," she said. "It's for members only. But if a strong conservative church like that has a dress code, what does that tell you? It tells you that there are problems even in that setting where people are coming dressed inappropriately to worship."

To make her point Mohler gave several fictitious examples of Christian women dressing immodestly. For example, "Clueless Clarice" simply pulls something out of the closet before going out, not taking the time to examine herself in the mirror.

"Disorganized Delores" has three children and says she doesn't have the time to consider what she wears.

"Stylish Stephie" only wears what's fashionable. "Frugal Frances" only wears what's cheap. "Dieting Diane" has one size of everything and often wears clothes that are too small -- simply to reward herself for shedding a few pounds.

"I call these cases accidental immodesty," Mohler said. "It's not deliberate, but the result is the same and what it looks like to the world is, 'These Christian women dress just like we do.'"

Citing Job 31:1 -- where Job makes a covenant with his eyes not to look at a virgin -- Mohler said Christian women should help their male counterparts maintain pure thoughts.

"We must remember what battles men face to stay pure as they are stimulated visually by women," she said. "... They should never have it flaunted in their faces, and to have it done at church is an abomination."

The biblical command to dress modestly, Mohler said, is first found in Genesis 3, where God makes "garments of skin" for Adam and Eve. She pointed out that God found their first attempt at clothing -- fig leaves sewn together --

unacceptable.

"Their remedy was not good enough," she said. "They were not clothed. They were [simply] covered."

Both the apostles Paul and Peter address modesty issues in the New Testament, Mohler said.

Immodesty, Mohler noted, has always been a problem.

"It's a timeless problem," she said. "In biblical times there were problems with how women dressed."

She asserted that, taken together, the passages in 1 Timothy and 1 Peter do not prohibit the wearing of jewelry or the braiding of hair.

"It says their adornments should not merely be external," she said. "So those who force that interpretation have to also say that it says you can't put on dresses either."

Both passages, Mohler said, should be studied by Christian

women.

"Perhaps we need to commit these two definitions [of modesty] to memory and maybe cut them out and ... take them to the dressing room with us to realize [that], 'Yes, there are biblical directives, there are biblical standards, and here's where they are,'" she said.

She gave other examples, including Romans 12:2 ("... do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed ...") and 1 Timothy 4:12 ("... show yourself an example of those who believe ...").

Mohler suggested that women sort through their closet and "throw away some things that really do not pass the test. Does God care how we dress? You bet he does. He cares about every aspect of our life, and we are called to holiness."

Mohler admitted that there are seeker-sensitive issues involved in the issue. In the past, she said, people may have looked down on someone not dressed in traditional Sunday morning attire. But what "started as a well-intentioned move to counter

that" has gone awry.

"[N]ow the flood gates are open and anything goes. It's going to be very hard for us to recover and to take steps to go back [in the other direction]."

Mohler gave a list of items that her daughter will never be allowed to wear: halter tops, tube tops, skin-tight shirts, low-cut shirts, midriff-exposing shirts, miniskirts, short shorts and anything from Abercrombie and Fitch.

"Do I sound like an authoritarian parent?" she asked. "I hope so. Because I am a parent, and as parents we are given a lot of different jobs, and it's challenging. We are to love our children and shepherd them and nurture them. But we're also to teach them ... because they're still children. They need direction."

Many teenage girls, Mohler said, are allowed to dress immodestly because their parents are trying "to be their daughter's friend instead of being her parent." They try to rationalize how they dress by saying, "She's a good kid. She

doesn't smoke or drink. She's going to use her own money for this."

"We all want our kids to love us," Mohler said. "I want my kids to think I am the greatest mom in the world. But at what cost? We've got to teach them from the early days that they have to stand for something or they're going to fall for everything."

Mohler said when she lectures on modesty, she often receives words of encouragement.

"Whenever I speak on this," she said, "mothers of sons will come and they will say, 'Please continue to proclaim this message wherever you can. What else can we do? We don't have daughters ... but we have sons that are looking at how [other parents'] daughters dress."

"... Men really struggle with this, and it is our job as mothers of daughters to make sure that we don't make the job any harder for them."

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Modesty II

- I. Your clothing is speaking for you!
 - a. "*Modest Apparel*" – means 'respectable, honorable.' It is translated "of good behavior" in 1 Tim 3:2. Your clothes are to match/proclaim/adorn your godly behavior.
 - b. "*Propriety*" – has an interesting sense of both shame and honor, bashfulness and reverence (Heb 12:28).
 - c. "*Moderation*" – means 'sobriety, soundness of mind, self-control, and reasonableness.' Again, the context doesn't allow for a girl to say, "but I don't mean that when I wear this..."
- II. The only time people were naked and unashamed in the Bible was Genesis 2:25
- III. From this time forward God always covers His people
Revelation 19:8
- IV. You should not be consumed with the desire to have the world's perfect body

- V. Don't wear anything that calls attention to parts of your body that you do not want others looking at
- VI. Clothing does identify you so wear something that identifies you as male or female
- VII. Modesty includes the way we talk—leave off flattering talk to the opposite sex Proverbs 29:5, 7:21
- VIII. Work on building inward beauty rather than outward beauty Proverbs 6:25
- IX. Even make up can be over done and leave the realms of modesty Proverbs 5:3, 7:25
- X. Let's get blunt
 - a. No revealing clothes—legs or above, breasts, back, stomach, see through, under garments that show through and are noticeable, button up, sleeveless
 - b. No tight clothes
 - c. Eye traps

d.Learn how men think—watch their eyes

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A Picture of True Love

I Timothy 2:11 Let the woman learn in silence with all subjection. 12 But I suffer not a woman to teach, nor to usurp authority over the man, but to be in silence. 13 For Adam was first formed, then Eve. 14 And **Adam was not deceived, but the woman being deceived was in the transgression.** 15 Notwithstanding she shall be **saved in childbearing**, if they continue in faith and charity and holiness with sobriety.

1. Adam and Eve were special made for each other
 - a. Adam was God's special creation Genesis 2:7 And the Lord God formed man of the dust of the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living soul.
 - b. Eve was made special for Adam from Adam Genesis 2:18 And the Lord God said, *It is not good that the man should be alone; I will make him an help meet for him.*

Genesis 2:20 And Adam gave names to all cattle, and to the fowl of the air, and to every beast of the field; but for Adam there was not found an help meet for him.

Genesis 2:23 And Adam said, This *is* now bone of my bones, and flesh of my flesh: she shall be called Woman, because she was taken out of Man.

- c. You were special made by God for God. Colossians 1:16 For by him were all things created, that are in heaven, and that are in earth, visible and invisible, whether *they be* thrones, or dominions, or principalities, or powers: **all things were created by him, and for him:**

2. Sin separated them

- a. Eve was deceived but Adam was not deceived

I Timothy 2:14 And Adam was not deceived, but the **woman being deceived** was in the transgression.

- b. Man sinned but Jesus did not sin

Romans 3:10 As it is written, There is none righteous, no,

not one: **Romans 3:23** For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God; **Isaiah 59:1** Behold, the Lord's hand is not shortened, that it cannot save; Neither his ear heavy, that it cannot hear: **2** But your iniquities have separated between you and your God, And your sins have hid *his* face from you, that he will not hear. **I Peter 2:22** Who did no sin, neither was guile found in his mouth:

3. Adam preferred to die rather than lose Eve

- a. Adam wasn't deceived but chose to die rather than lose Eve **Genesis 3:6** And when the woman saw that the tree *was* good for food, and that it *was* pleasant to the eyes, and a tree to be desired to make *one* wise, she took of the fruit thereof, and did eat, and gave also unto her husband with her; and he did eat.

I Timothy 2:14 And **Adam was not deceived,** but the woman being deceived was in the transgression.

- b. God could have given him another wife or another solution but his love for her was too great
- c. Adam took the fruit full well knowing the price he was about to pay.

- d. Jesus took the cross full well knowing the price he was about to pay **Hebrews 12:2** Looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of *our* faith; who for the joy that was set before him **endured the cross**, despising the shame, and is set down at the right hand of the throne of God. **John 10:18** **No man taketh it from me**, but I lay it down of myself. I have power to lay it down, and I have power to take it again. This commandment have I received of my Father.
- e. Do you love your spouse to the extent that you are willing to sacrifice all for your spouse **Ephesians 5:25** **Husbands, love your wives, even as Christ also loved the church, and gave himself for it;**
- f. How are you expressing this great love you feel for your spouse

4. God forgave them

- a. God took skins and covered them physically and blood that covered sins spiritually **Genesis 3:21** **Unto Adam also and to his wife did the Lord God make coats of skins, and clothed them.**

b. God made Jesus to be sin so that you could be made righteous in Him

II Corinthians 5:21 For he hath made him *to be* sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in him.

This verse confused many for many years. I knew that having babies wasn't the way a woman got saved so what did it mean. Then when I finally saw it, I was so excited that this became one of my favorite verses.

It was woman that brought death into the world. By listening to Satan and being deceived by him, the woman condemned the human race.

Then the Lord in His mercy and grace promised the woman that she would have a baby, a seed, a man, that would stomp the head of the serpent. The woman gives birth to the promised one, the Messiah.

In a foolish act, a sin, she had lost all of her dignity. She had brought death and destruction on all. Now in a moment of grace and promise, she has gotten it all back and is in even better standing. That woman that brought death was called Eve, the mother of all living. Her dignity was restored, she was saved, rescued.

God is so good to all of us. He made a way of life out of death for the woman who would later be called Eve. He allowed a woman to give birth to Jesus, the very Son of God, bring salvation to the entire human race!

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Spiritual Leadership Requirements

I Timothy 3:1 This is a true saying, If a man desire the office of a bishop, he desireth a good work. 2 A bishop then must be blameless, the husband of one wife, vigilant, sober, of good behaviour, given to hospitality, apt to teach; 3 Not given to wine, no striker, not greedy of filthy lucre; but patient, not a brawler, not covetous; 4 One that ruleth well his own house, having his children in subjection with all gravity; 5 (For if a man know not how to rule his own house, how shall he take care of the church of God?) 6 Not a novice, lest being lifted up with pride he fall into the condemnation of the devil. 7 Moreover he must have a good report of them which are without; lest he fall into reproach and the snare of the devil.

1. Be or personal, private character of the person
 - a. No sinful strongholds
 - i. Drugs--not given to wine, nothing that would control or dominate you I Corinthians 6:12 All things are lawful unto me, but all things are not expedient: all things are

lawful for me, but **I will not be brought under the power of any.**

ii. Sex—the husband of one wife (Pornography)

iii. Money—not given to filthy lucre or covetous

iv. Anger—not a brawler or striker

b. Self control or is patient, not a striker or fighter or brawler

c. Vigilant or is careful to avoid temptation or Satan's attack

I Peter 5:8 Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour:

d. Good Testimony—blameless and good behavior

2. Do is what people can see such as the home life

a. A one woman man—husband of one wife **I Timothy 3:2 A**

bishop then must be blameless, the **husband of one wife**, vigilant, sober, of good behaviour, given to hospitality, apt to teach **I Timothy 3:12** Let the deacons be the **husbands of one wife**, ruling their children and their own houses well. **I Timothy 5:9** Let not

a widow be taken into the number under threescore years old, having been the **wife of one man,**

- b. Leads and guides his home well
- c. Is actively in correctly involved in raising and training his children
- d. Enjoys serving and entertaining others **Hebrews 13:2 Be not forgetful to entertain strangers: for thereby some have entertained angels unawares.**

3. Serve is how you serve God publicly

- a. Not a novice or has a track record or time in service
- b. Not prideful is willing to learn and grow into ministry but desires it
- c. Outsiders give a good report
- d. Ability and desire to teach

4. Train -- learning to take others on to the next level in their spiritual life

- a. Apt to teach – how to take care of the church of God
- b. Ruling the church or training and teaching the church just like he does with his family

- c. Involved in discipleship [II Timothy 2:2](#) And the things that thou hast heard of me among many witnesses, the same commit thou to faithful men, who shall be able to teach others also.

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Desiring to do a good work

I Timothy 3:1 This *is* a true saying, If a man **desire** the office of a bishop, he desireth a good work.

1. Doing something for God starts with a special hunger or desire to serve Him
 - a. The word desire here means
 - i. “to stretch one’s self forward”
 - ii. “to aim at”
 - iii. “to reach for”
 - iv. “to be eager for”
 - b. This desire is God given [Philippians 2:13](#) For it is God which worketh in you both to will and to do of *his* good pleasure.
2. This desire will grow to an urgency
 - a. Necessity was laid on Paul [I Corinthians 9:16](#) For though I preach the gospel, I have nothing to glory of: for necessity is laid upon me; yea, woe is unto me, if I preach not the gospel!

b. Woe if he didn't preach **I Corinthians 9:16** For though I preach the gospel, I have nothing to glory of: for necessity is laid upon me; yea, woe is unto me, if I preach not the gospel!

3. How to put that desire to work

a. Start doing what you can now.

- i. A cup of cold water **Matthew 10:42** And whosoever shall give to drink unto one of these little ones a cup of cold *water* only in the name of a disciple, verily I say unto you, he shall in no wise lose his reward.
- ii. A word of encouragement **Hebrews 10:24** And let us consider one another to provoke unto love and to good works:
- iii. Addicted to serving **I Corinthians 16:15** I beseech you, brethren, (ye know the house of Stephanas, that it is the firstfruits of Achaia, and *that* they have addicted themselves to the ministry of the saints,)
- iv. Like the godly widow **I Timothy 5:10** Well reported of for good works; if she have brought up children, if she have lodged strangers, if she have washed the saints' feet, if she have relieved the afflicted, if she have diligently followed every good work.

- b. The church is here to help you learn, grow, and mature so that you can be used [Ephesians 4:11](#) And he gave some, apostles; and some, prophets; and some, evangelists; and some, pastors and teachers; [12](#) For the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ:
- c. It is God's desire that you be mature [Colossians 1:28](#) Whom we preach, warning every man, and teaching every man in all wisdom; that we may present every man perfect in Christ Jesus:
- d. As you grow you should become a teacher and not continue as a student [Hebrews 5:12](#) For when for the time ye ought to be teachers, ye have need that one teach you again which *be* the first principles of the oracles of God; and are become such as have need of milk, and not of strong meat. [13](#) For every one that useth milk *is* unskilful in the word of righteousness: for he is a babe. [14](#) But strong meat belongeth to them that are of full age, *even* those who by reason of use have their senses exercised to discern both good and evil.
- e. Understand that it is a growth process [I John 2:12](#) I write unto you, little children, because your sins are forgiven

you for his name's sake. 13 I write unto you, fathers, because ye have known him *that is* from the beginning. I write unto you, young men, because ye have overcome the wicked one. I write unto you, little children, because ye have known the Father. 14 I have written unto you, fathers, because ye have known him *that is* from the beginning. I have written unto you, young men, because ye are strong, and the word of God abideth in you, and ye have overcome the wicked one.

- f. Get involved in discipleship II Timothy 2:2 And the things that thou hast heard of me among many witnesses, the same commit thou to faithful men, who shall be able to teach others also.

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Work of the Pastor

Ephesians 4:11 And **he gave some**, apostles; and some, prophets; and some, evangelists; and some, **pastors** and teachers; 12 For the **perfecting of the saints**, for the **work of the ministry**, for the **edifying of the body of Christ**: 13 **Till** we all come in the **unity of the faith**, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, **unto a perfect man**, unto the **measure of the stature of the fulness of Christ**: 14 That we *henceforth* be **no more children**, tossed to and fro, and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the sleight of men, *and* cunning craftiness, whereby they lie in wait to deceive; 15 But **speaking the truth in love**, may grow up into

him in all things, which is the head, *even* Christ: 16 From whom the **whole body fitly joined together** and **compacted** by that which **every joint supplieth**, according to the **effectual working** in the measure of **every part**, maketh **increase of the body** unto the **edifying of itself in love**.

1. Be **spiritual** Acts 20:28 **Take heed therefore unto yourselves**, and to all the flock, over the which the Holy Ghost hath **made you overseers**, to **feed the church of God**, which he hath purchased with his own blood.
 - a. **Pray** yourself happy
 - b. **Pour** out your problems in prayer I Peter 5:7 **Casting all your care upon him**; for he careth for you.

c. **Protect**, deepen, your relationship with the Lord

2. Be **strong** in the faith [Mark 9:23](#) Jesus said unto him, **If thou canst believe**, all things *are* possible to him that believeth. [24](#) And straightway the father of the child cried out, and said with tears, **Lord, I believe; help thou mine unbelief.**

a. No **doubting** [Luke 12:29](#) And seek not ye what ye shall eat, or what ye shall drink, **neither be ye of doubtful mind.**

b. Work **depends** on God moving [Matthew 13:59](#) And he did not many mighty works there **because of their unbelief.** [Mark 6:5](#) **And he could there do no mighty work**, save that he laid his hands upon a few sick folk, and healed *them*. [6](#) And he **marvelled because of their unbelief.** And he went round about the villages, teaching.

c. **Decide** what to think on [Hebrews 11:6](#) But **without faith *it is impossible to please him:*** for he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and *that* he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him.

3. **Stay** the course [Galatians 6:9](#) And let us not **be weary in well doing:** for in due season we shall reap, **if we faint not.**

a. Don't **falter**, keep working

b. **Face** each day as if it were your last, don't get tired and slow down

c. **Faith** for the future, believe God is going to work in and through you [I Corinthians 15:58](#) Therefore, my beloved brethren, **be ye steadfast,** unmoveable, **always abounding in the work of the Lord,** forasmuch as ye know that your labour is not in vain in the Lord.

4. Stress the **system** I Corinthians 3:7 So then neither is he that **planteth** any thing, neither he that **watereth;** but **God that giveth the increase.** 8 Now he that **planteth** and he that **watereth** are one: and **every man shall receive his own reward according to his own labour.**

a. It is the **process** not the **product**

b. Do not **compare** or **compete** II Corinthians 10:12 For we dare not make ourselves of the number, or **compare ourselves with some that commend themselves:** but they **measuring themselves** by themselves, and **comparing themselves among themselves, are not wise.**

c. **Work** not **want**

5. No **success** without family I Timothy 3:4 One that **ruleth well** his own house, having his **children in subjection** with all gravity; 5 (For if a man know not how to **rule his own house**, how shall he **take care of the church of God?**)

- a. Take time for **devotions**
- b. **Disciple** your family
- c. **Dedicate** time to them

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Am I prepared for the Mission Field?

1. Do you place a great deal of importance on the ministry God has called you to do. Are you willing to pay whatever price to be greatly used of God?
2. What educational preparation have you had to do the ministry?
3. How many people have you personally led to Christ?
 - a. In your preaching ministry
 - b. In personal soul winning where you were the speaker not just the partner
4. How many people have you personally discipled from the new birth to full dedication and service and are now serving God faithfully in your local church?
 - a. This can involve a classroom setting but means a person that you personally were the principal discipler or trainer and the pastor and the person would acknowledge your principal and direct role in that person's life

- b. This means taking them through at least the minimum Bible truths and seeing them become faithful follower of Jesus Christ involved in the ministry of your local church in some type of leadership role
 - c. How many have you discipled or influenced that are now in full time ministry or on their way to being in full time ministry?
5. What is your strategy or plan for accomplishing the ministry you feel that God has called you to?
- a. Will you be starting a church and leaving it and if so how long do you project that you will need to do that?
 - b. Will you be starting a base or mother church and staying there?
 - c. What types of ministry do you think that you will have to truly say that you are trying to be a missionary to the entire country?
 - d. What sort of discipleship or training do you intend to do?
 - e. Name 3 specific goals that you have for your ministry in the next year, and then in the next five years.
6. What ministry experience do you have?

- a. Do you have a minimum of two years of faithful service in the ministry of your local church? This would include your wife and children and their faithfulness to be involved in the church and its ministries.
 - b. How much overseas experience and or cross cultural experience do you have
 - i. Have you ever worked with anyone that was of a different race or language in a church or soul winning setting
 - ii. Have you made overseas trips if so to where and what did you do there
 - iii. Have you ever attempted to learn a foreign language and if you did how did it go for you?
 - iv. How many books have you read on getting prepared for cross-cultural work? Which ones?
7. How do you feel that nationals fit into ministry leadership in the ministry that God has called you to do?
- a. Are nationals expected to live to a different level of accountability than you?
 - b. Can a national where you are going be expected to be as successful in church leadership as you?

- c. Can nationals be trusted with money and responsibility?
 - d. What can be done to not ruin or spoil the national with the money and materials that might be placed in his hands in the ministry?
8. Are you a giver? Do you personally tithe and give to missions?
9. Do you have a strong marriage and family relationship or have you clearly accepted your singleness if God has not given you a mate?
10. What kind of personal growth plan do you have?
- a. Book reading plan
 - b. Seeking growth through further training
11. What kind of accountability systems do you have in place in your life?
- a. For your internet usage
 - b. For your personal devotions etc
 - c. For your continual personal spiritual and academic growth

12. How many times have you read the Bible through from cover to cover approximately?
13. Can you give a clear, confident testimony of your salvation based on the written Word of God?
14. Can you express clearly and confidently your call to the ministry?
15. Can others see the hand of God on your life and the proof of your calling?
16. Has God made it clear to you where it is that He wants you to serve Him?
17. Are you faithful to your local church, this means all regular services and also any special services?
18. Do you participate in the soul winning ministry of your church?

19. What ministries do you participate in, in your local church?
20. Have you ever built a Sunday School class so that your pastor and church can see you exercising your gifts and calling?
21. Can you stand alone spiritually or do you need to be pumped up and propped up spiritually?
22. Have you had a problem finishing what you start? Have you finished your studies, Bible College, etc.?
23. Can you explain how you determine the will of God for your life?
24. How much pulpit experience have you had?
25. Are you in debt?
26. How does your family make major decisions? Who has the final word in family decisions?

27.Can you explain and defend your basic doctrinal beliefs?

Did God call you?

1. Did you have an intense all consuming desire for the work of God?

This is a true saying, If a man desire the office of a bishop, he desireth a good work. I Timothy 3:1.

It is not natural to want to be a missionary. The thought may cross many people's minds but the truth is that it is only a fleeting thought quickly and easily dismissed by most. It is God who has worked in us both to will (or to put a desire in us that is not natural to us) and do his good pleasure. God placed something in our heart that we could not get away from.

For it is God which worketh in you both to will and to do of his good pleasure. Philippians 2:13

Many of us were afraid. Many of us doubted but He did something in us. Don't you dare doubt that when the trouble comes. Don't you doubt in the night what God gave you in the light. This desire was so great we couldn't get it out of our

hearts and minds.

Did God place a "necessity" on you? Did you feel the "woe"?

For though I preach the gospel, I have nothing to glory of: for necessity is laid upon me; yea, woe is unto me, if I preach not the gospel! I Corinthians 9:16.

I don't know what happens, but it seems that one day we are happy in our lives and churches and then something just happens. It may have started with a message from our pastor or a Sunday School lesson. It could have started in a missions conference or reading a book. It may have been something that someone said but it happened. It doesn't happen to most folks but it did to you. All of a sudden you felt like you couldn't get away. It may have started as only a passing thought. It was kind of romantic. It was neat to think about but it didn't go away. Almost everyone has thought about being a missionary, but they get over it. You didn't because you are different. You are called of God.

Did your "heart stir you up"?

And Moses called Bezaleel and Aholiab, and every wise hearted man, in whose heart the LORD had put wisdom, even every one whose heart stirred him up to come unto the work to do it: Exodus 36:2.

No one can explain it. It is different with everyone, but something happened. You knew it then and even in the worst of times you will need to remember it. When it gets tough and the Devil is on your back you are going to need to remember this. You didn't choose it. He chose you. He put the unnatural but spiritual desire in your heart. He put a "necessity on you." He put the "woe on you." He "stirred up your heart." Don't let anyone or anything rob you of that. Don't let yourself, a "friend", or the Devil try to explain it away. It is the most precious gift we have in our personal ministry and walk with God. He called me!

Others can see the hand of God on my life and ministry.

He put the burden on me but He also has helped me live a life that met the requirements of the ministry. He gave me the ability. I went before my pastor and he could see that in me.

A group of Godly men have examined me and they can see it. Not only do I think that God called me but others recognize it in me. God has placed His hand on me. I feel very humble when I think about it but the God of Heaven has counted me worthy and put me in His ministry. One of the wonderful things about it is that I am not the only one who thinks so. You wouldn't be here today unless God had impressed on others that you have been called of God. You had to prove your call. You had to let others see it and they did.

I believe God has called me or I wouldn't sitting here right now.

Now you will travel all around the country while literally thousands more evaluate your call. You will have to believe it or you can't keep telling people over and over. God called me. God called me. Don't you forget it when it gets rough. Never make a major decision during times of discouragement and problems.

And let us not be weary in well doing: for in due season we shall reap, if we faint not. Galatians 6:9

God has confirmed or will be confirming His call in you.

He opened doors for you in your church, at the mission, in other churches, and in the work. He called you. Never, never forget it. Hold on. He that called you will see you through.

God's call is what holds me when I get down.

I often think of quitting. I often get tired but then I remember. I am not in Peru because I want to be. I am not going as a missionary because I am a good guy. I am not there because I like it. I didn't choose to go He called me. I would be afraid to do anything less. When I get down I just remember, (I try to forget), but it is still there I came here under orders. I do not want to embarrass my God, my Calling, my Church, my Mission Board. I will stay. I will not allow myself to think of other things. I will not try to rationalize it. I will not try to figure a way out of it. I will get a hold of God.

He sent me He has to help me stay. For 30 years now He has not failed me and He won't fail you. He has a job for you to do and He will give you more grace and help if you will just allow Him to do so

- God's plan for my life is based on the following
 - My relationship to God
 - My motivation which should be my relationship to God
- God's will for my life will be based on the gifts and abilities that He has given me
- As I do God's will each day in my life where I am then God will show me where He wants me to be
- I need not be worried about knowing the where until I really know the who, the what, and the how.
- As I prepare myself God will open the doors.

- My part is to do all I know to do based on what the Word of God says until God makes it clear to me all the other details
- God chose to call us. God has allowed us to preach the Gospel. God has entrusted His Word to us. He shed His blood and has entrusted His Holy Word to us.
- Let God Do It **Colossians 1:29** Whereunto I also labour, striving according to his working, which worketh in me mightily. **I Corinthians 15:10** But by the grace of God I am what I am: and his grace which *was bestowed* upon me was not in vain; but I laboured more abundantly than they all: yet not I, but the grace of God which was with me.
- He Called, He Will **Philippians 1:6** Being confident of this very thing, that he which hath begun a good work in you will perform *it* until the day of Jesus Christ:

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Pastoring your wife on the mission field!

1. Remember that a qualification to be a missionary is to pastor your own home well **1 Timothy 3:1** This *is* a true saying, If a man desire the office of a bishop, he desireth a good work. **2** A bishop then must be blameless, the husband of one wife, vigilant, sober, of good behaviour, given to hospitality, apt to teach; **3** Not given to wine, no striker, not greedy of filthy lucre; but patient, not a brawler, not covetous; **4** One that **ruleth well his own house, having his children in subjection with all gravity;** **5** (For if a man know not **how to rule his own house,** how shall he take care of the church of God?) **6** Not a novice, lest being lifted up with pride he fall into the condemnation of the devil. **7** Moreover he must have a good report of them which

are without; lest he fall into reproach and the snare of the devil.

- a. Husband of one wife **I Timothy 3:2** A bishop then must be blameless, **the husband of one wife,** vigilant, sober, of good behaviour, given to hospitality, apt to teach;
- b. Ruling well his own house **Timothy 3:4** One that **ruleth well his own house,** having his children in subjection with all gravity;
- c. Children in subjection with all gravity **Timothy 3:4** One that ruleth well his own house, **having his children in subjection** with all gravity;
- d. If you can't rule well your own house how will you take care of the church of God **Timothy 3:5** (For if a man know not how to rule his own house, how shall he take care of the church of God?)

2. You are to treat your wife like Christ treats the church

Ephesians 5:25 Husbands, love your wives, even **as**

Christ also loved the church, and gave himself for it; 26 That he might sanctify and cleanse it with the washing of water by the word, 27 That he might present it to himself a glorious church, not having spot, or wrinkle, or any such thing; but that it should be holy and without blemish. 28 So ought men to love their wives **as their own bodies.** He that loveth his wife loveth himself. 29 For no man ever yet hated his own flesh; but nourisheth and cherisheth it, even **as the Lord the church:** 30 For we are members of his body, of his flesh, and of his bones. 31 For this cause shall a man leave his father and mother, and shall be joined unto his wife, and they two shall be one flesh. 32 This is a great mystery: but I speak concerning Christ and the church. 33 Nevertheless let every one of you in particular so love his wife even as himself; and the wife see that she reverence *her* husband.

- a. He willingly submitted Himself to a death of humiliation on the cross to rescue us **Ephesians 5:25 Husbands, love your wives, even as Christ also loved the church, and gave himself for it;**
- b. His goal is to better us by sanctifying and cleansing us **Ephesians 5:26 That he might sanctify and cleanse it with the washing of water by the word,**
- c. He is patient with us
 - i. He loves us in our mistakes
 - ii. He has more grace than we have failures
- d. He will so purify us as to not be embarrassed by us **Ephesians 5:27 That he might present it to himself a glorious church, not having spot, or wrinkle, or any such thing; but that it should be holy and without blemish.**
 - i. We should never embarrass our wife in public
 - ii. We should help our wife to have victory
- e. Loving your wife is like loving your own body **Ephesians 5:28 So ought men to love their wives as their own bodies. He that loveth his wife loveth**

himself. 29 For no man ever yet hated his own flesh;
but nourisheth and cherisheth it, even as the Lord the
church:

- i. Treat her like you want to be treated
 - ii. Provide for all of her needs and many of her wants
 - iii. Treat her like a queen
- f. We should treat our wives in such a way that every woman would dream of having a husband that loved and adored his wife as much as the pastor or missionary does
- i. Express your love publicly
 - ii. Express your love privately
 - iii. Make sure that she knows that you know she is around
 - iv. Never compare your wife to another woman
- g. Remember that your wife is unable to share her fears with anyone else without embarrassing you. So let her cry on your shoulder. Be her hero. Let her know that you can, with God's help, defeat Satan and all that challenges her.

- i. Talk to her. Explain what is going on.
- ii. Give her an emergency plan if something were to happen
- iii. Let her know that you have her in all of your plans and that she is your priority

3. Help her with her fear

- a. Listen to her
- b. Teach her how to trust God
- c. Teach her how to think **Philippians 4:8** Finally, brethren, whatsoever things are true, whatsoever things *are* honest, whatsoever things *are* just, whatsoever things *are* pure, whatsoever things *are* lovely, whatsoever things *are* of good report; if *there be* any virtue, and if *there be* any praise, think on these things.
- d. Take every step possible to help her see that you are providing for her

4. Buy her the best appliances that you can afford. Make her home her castle. Let her make choices at the house and feel good about where and how she lives.
 - a. Get a guard, security system, or whatever to make her feel more secure
 - b. Make sure that your wife knows that her insecurities are important to you
 - c. She has to feel like a good mother and home maker
5. Do not ever make her do things so you will look good or will not have a bad testimony
 - a. Easy to fall into the trap of pleasing others and looking good
 - b. Easy to pressure family into something that will make them bitter
6. Don't magnify her sacrifice by making her live like a Spartan. You can be Rambo but do not expect your wife to be!

- a. I know that you do not want to be wasteful and you shouldn't
- b. Be careful to spend on her more than you
- c. Learn to consider the cost over time

7. Remember that your wife just likes to be held when she is sad or afraid. Your arms and love will do more for her than your words will do.

- a. She needs to be able to cry and not be judged for it by you
- b. She needs to know that you will love her even if she is not as spiritual as you
- c. She needs to know that she is always accepted

8. Work at having date nights and get aways

- a. You will hear that I didn't do this as I should have and you will be right
- b. Can you learn from my mistakes or must you be as stupid as I have been

- c. No one will be with you in 37 years but your wife. She is more important than all your ministry
- d. Get her away for a few days every quarter or so and let her forget her problems and insecurities for a few days

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Shepherding Your Home

I Timothy 3:4 One that **ruleth well his own house**, having his **children in subjection with all gravity**; 5 (For if a man know not how to **rule his own house**, how shall he **take care of the church** of God?) Titus 1:6 If any be blameless, the husband of one wife, having **faithful children not accused of riot or unruly**. I Timothy 5:8 But if any **provide not for his own**, and **specially for those of his own house**, he hath **denied the faith**, and is worse than an infidel.

1. Be an example Genesis 18:19 For I know him, that he will **command his children** and his household **after him**, and **they shall keep the way** of the Lord, to **do justice and judgment**;

that the Lord may bring

upon Abraham

that which he hath spoken of him.

- a. Teach them to love Jesus
- b. Show them how to live a happy, grateful, abundant life
- c. Live in victory over sin
- d. Show them how to handle money and blessings
- e. Let your wife see what a man of God you are

2. Get them to Jesus **Deuteronomy 6:6** And these words, which I command thee this day, **shall be in thine heart:** **7** And thou shalt **teach them diligently** unto thy children, and shalt **talk of them** when thou **sittest** in thine house, and when thou **walkest** by the way, and when thou **liest down,** and when thou **risest up.** **8** And thou shalt **bind them** for a sign upon **thine hand,** and they shall be as frontlets

between **thine eyes.** 9 And thou shalt write them upon the **posts of thy house,** and on thy gates.

- a. Teach them about your faith
- b. Show them their need of a Savior
- c. Always prioritize the spiritual over all other
- d. Don't skip church
- e. Don't let them or your wife miss worship
- f. Worship together as a family, involve the kids

3. Control all inputs into their lives

- a. Be careful with media, iPad, baby sitter
- b. Watch who their friends are and where they go
- c. Watch what books etc that they read
- d. Be sure your wife controls her inputs and knows that you do as well

4. Teach them to work and how to handle money

- a. Don't let them get arrogant because they have money and a maid, the best of everything
- b. Idle mind is the devil's workshop
- c. Give them an allowance and teach them

- i. How to save
 - ii. Have a budget
 - iii. Give offering and missions
 - iv. Pay bills
 - v. Be generous
- d. Get a list of chores and do not feel bad that they need to learn to work

5. Communication is very important

- a. With your wife most of all
- b. Do not tell her everything
 - i. To cause her to fear
 - ii. To give her a tool to get you to quit or whatever
- c. Eat together
- d. Ask for prayer requests during family devotions
- e. Go on vacation together
- f. Go on dates with your wife
- g. Listen
- h. Don't use your words to hurt your partner or children

6. Patiently and lovingly discipline

- a. Be a team, get together so that you share discipline and what you believe about it
- b. Let them know the rules
- c. Enforce the rules
- d. Never keep them from church and godly things as a means of discipline

7. Build an environment of joy, love, and gratitude in your home

- a. Be expressive
- b. Constantly remind them of all that God has done
- c. Let them see you be grateful to their mom
- d. Be grateful to those that you serve and work with
- e. Keep complaining and murmuring out of the house because it is praise to the devil

8. Have family devotions

- a. Memorize Scripture
- b. Teach them the Bible
- c. Teach them how to think like believers
- d. Discuss the messages and Sunday School lessons

- e. Have prayer time together

9. Guard your family

- a. Protect them from sin and influences
- b. Even other believers or their kids
- c. Don't over protect
- d. Watch for how the devil is getting into their thinking and teach them truth to replace that

10. Pastor your wife

- a. Help her understand what you expect so she doesn't feel insecure
- b. Be at home let her trust you
- c. Teach her to think
- d. Teach her that we do not live by feelings
- e. Do not put her or the children under extreme pressure or stress
- f. Don't expect someone else to meet your needs or fulfill you but Christ

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Child Rearing Principles for you to consider

I Timothy 3:4 One that **ruleth well his own house**, having his **children in subjection with all gravity**; 5 (For if a man **know not how to rule his own house, how shall he take care of the church of God?**)

1. Everything this teaches applies to you as a missionary not to all others but you Titus 1:6 If any be blameless, the husband of one wife, **having faithful children not accused of riot or unruly.**

I Timothy 3:12 Let the deacons be the husbands of one wife, **ruling their children and their own houses well.**

- a. Every church you go in they are watching you and everything you do, you live in a glass house
- b. If you can't make your children mind then leave them at home. If you can't make your children mind, then

doesn't that indicate you are not ready to be in Christian leadership? Your first disciples are your children and what's the point of going to the mission field to disciple other if you aren't able to disciple your own children.

- c. They determine your level of maturity and your leadership by how your children behave
- d. That is not really necessary if you will do what we are about to discuss

2. Real Child rearing starts with your personal relationship to God **Genesis 18:17** And the Lord said, **Shall I hide** from **Abraham** that thing which I do; **18** Seeing that **Abraham** shall surely **become a great and mighty nation,** and all the nations of the earth shall be blessed in him? **19** For I know him, that **he will command his children** and his household **after him,** and **they shall keep the way of the Lord, to do**

justice and judgment; that the Lord may bring upon Abraham that which he hath spoken of him.

- a. God had an intimate relationship with Abraham
 - b. He believed in Abraham and his ministry
 - c. He fully expected Abraham to live out the example and then command his family to do the same
 - d. God knew that Abraham's children would do the right thing
3. Second after your personal relationship with God is your marriage and the relationship the two of you have
- a. Your child will be secure if they know you are going to stay together
 - b. You believe in and trust each other and your children will know that
 - c. They are your children together and that will be obvious
4. Realize your children are a gift from God and you are responsible to Him for how you raise them [Psalm 127:3](#) **Lo,**

children *are* an heritage of the Lord:

*And the fruit of the womb is **his reward**.* ⁴ As

arrows *are* in the hand of a mighty

man; *So *are* children of the youth.* ⁵ **Happy *is* the**

man that hath his quiver full of them: **They shall**

not be ashamed, But they shall speak

with the enemies in the gate.

5. Begin early

- a. When he is old he will do what he was taught

Proverbs 22:6 **Train up a child** in the way he

should go: And **when he is old, he will not**

depart from it.

- b. While there is hope Proverbs 19:18 **Chasten thy**

son while there is hope, And

let not thy soul spare for his crying.

- c. Don't let the child manipulate you with their crying
- d. Teach them about salvation from a young age

II Timothy 3:15 And that **from a child** thou hast known the holy scriptures, which are able to make thee wise unto salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus.

- 6. Do not permit temper tantrums Proverbs 16:32 *He that is slow to anger is better than the mighty; And he that ruleth his spirit* than he that taketh a city.

- a. Set a good example yourself
- b. Do not respond to your child in anger
- c. The kids are not in charge

- 7. Develop a very close relationship with the child so that losing fellowship or being disappointed in them hurts worse than punishment Ephesians 6:4 *And, ye fathers, provoke not your children to wrath: but bring them up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord.*

- a. Sweet times together

- b. Play together
 - c. Say sweet things
 - d. Ask for forgiveness if you make a mistake
8. Praise your child when they do right. **I Samuel 15:22** **And Samuel said, Hath the Lord *as great* delight in burnt offerings and sacrifices, **As in obeying** the voice of the Lord? Behold, **to obey is better than sacrifice, And to hearken** than the fat of rams.**
- a. They should know you love them and are proud of them
 - b. They should learn that obedience pleases you and God
 - c. Teach them that listening shows great respect and makes you proud
9. Teach your child to be alone
- a. Sit them in their room and leave them for up to an hour
 - b. Get baby sitters and leave your child
 - c. Do not let your child rule your home
 - d. Do not let your child be so clingy that you have no life

- e. They should not be allowed to throw a fit when you leave them

10. Have discipline that fits the crime

- a. Do not threaten over and over
- b. If you say this is your last warning make sure it really is
- c. Be consistent
- d. The punishment must be much worse than the crime

11. Have family devotions and teach your child to sit still

Deuteronomy 6:6 And these words, which I command thee this day, **shall be in thine heart:** 7 And thou shalt **teach them diligently** unto thy children, and shalt **talk of them** when thou sittest in thine house, and when thou walkest by the way, and when thou liest down, and when thou risest up.

- a. Have them sit with you and be quiet while the Bible is read and you pray
- b. Teach them to read
- c. Sit them there for an hour and make them learn to sit and be quiet

12. Teach your child to show respect to all adults

- a. They should be taught to respect all authorities in their life
- b. They should give them their seat
- c. They should look them in the eye and shake hands
- d. They should never have a smart mouth
- e. Do not sit without being told where to sit
- f. Do not take the pastor's seat
- g. Keep your children with you and know that they are under control
- h. Learn to hear and see your children instead of what you do with all others

13. Teach them how to behave in church

- a. No running around
- b. No slapping other kids or adults
- c. No smart responses to adults
- d. They should not be sitting and looking back at other people in the church
- e. They should be quiet, pray, etc

- f. You make a big mistake when you do not train your children how to act before God in His house

14. Expressively show your love to your children [Psalm 103:13](#)

Like as a **father pitieth *his* children**, So the Lord pitieth them that fear him.

- a. Hug and kiss them
- b. Spend time with them
- c. Pray with them

15. Do not let your child manipulate you with crying and tears

- a. They know that they are smarter than you
- b. They know if they throw a fit you will have to give them your undivided attention
- c. You need to spank them, work with them, so that they know that you are in charge not them
- d. If they try manipulation you should discipline them for even trying

16. Back each other up in discipline I Corinthians 14:33 For

**God is not *the author of confusion,*
but of peace,** as in all churches of the saints.

- a. If you must talk about what your spouse does in discipline do it in private
- b. Do not even hug a child that has been disciplined until they have made things right with the discipling parent
- c. They are your children, be a team

17. Spank your children

- a. Spank them or be embarrassed, your choice

Proverbs 29:15 The **rod and reproof give wisdom:** But a child left *to himself* **bringeth his mother to shame.**

- b. Don't stop correcting them or they will end up dead or in hell Proverbs 23:13 **Withhold not correction** from the child: For *if* thou **beatest him with the rod, he shall not die.** 14

Thou shalt **beat him with the rod, And shalt deliver his soul from hell.**

c. Spanking purifies [Proverbs 20:30](#) The **blueness of a wound** (bruises) *cleanseth away evil: So do stripes the inward parts of the belly.*

d. Drive the foolishness out of them [Proverbs 22:15](#)
Foolishness *is bound in the heart of a child; But the rod of correction shall drive it far from him.*

e. Discipline and rest [Proverbs 29:17](#) **Correct thy son,** and he shall **give thee rest;** Yea, he shall **give delight unto thy soul.**

18. Discipline shows your child that you love them

[Hebrews 12:6](#) For whom the **Lord loveth he chasteneth, and scourgeth every son**

whom he receiveth. 7 If ye endure chastening, God dealeth with you as with sons; **for what son is he whom the father chasteneth not?**

- a. Dads that delight in their children correct them

Proverbs 3:12 For **whom the Lord loveth he correcteth;** Even as a father the **son in whom he delighteth.**

- b. If you love him you will punish him immediately and when he needs it Proverbs 13:24 He that spareth his rod **hateth his son:** But he that **loveth him chasteneth him betimes.**

19. Stop making excuses for your child's bad behavior

- a. God judged Eli for not restraining his children

I Samuel 3:12 In that day **I will perform against Eli** all *things* which I have spoken concerning his house: when I begin, **I will also**

make an end. ¹³ For **I have told him**
that I will judge his house for ever for the
iniquity which he knoweth; **because his**
sons made themselves
vile, and he restrained
them not.

- b. Their sin was horrible ^{I Samuel 2:17} Wherefore the sin
of the young men was **very great before the**
Lord: for men abhorred the offering
of the Lord.
- c. Eli had spoken to his kids but didn't take drastic enough
of stand, discipline ^{I Samuel 2:22} Now **Eli** was very
old, and heard all that his sons did unto all Israel; and
how they **lay with the women** that assembled

at the door of the tabernacle of the congregation. 23 And

he said unto them, why do ye such things? for I hear of your evil dealings by all this people. 24

Nay, my sons; for *it is* no good report that I hear: ye make the Lord's people to transgress. 25 If

one man sin against another, the judge shall judge him: but **if a man sin against the Lord, who shall intreat for him?** Notwithstanding

they hearkened not unto the voice of their father,

because the Lord would slay them.

- d. The lack of discipline showed that he loved his children more than God **I Samuel 2:29** *Wherefore kick ye at my sacrifice and at mine offering, which I have commanded in my habitation; and **honourest thy sons above me,** to make yourselves fat with the chiefest of all the offerings of Israel my people?*
- e. Some thoughts to consider from this story
 - i. Honor God more than you do your children
 - ii. Guide them to Christ
 - iii. Instruct them
 - iv. Restrain them
 - v. Make them respect the house of God

20. Teach them to have a good attitude

- a. They should do what they are told, when they are told, with the right heart attitude
- b. They are not allowed to show a tantrum or rebellion

- c. They are to learn to smile and speak respectfully

21. Be an example of what you want your child to become

22. Teach your child that no means no and it means it immediately

- a. Children will naturally think that they are the center of the universe if you do not teach them better
- b. If they do not obey immediately then it is disobedience
- c. They need to be taught that they obey not command

Proverbs 19:25 **Smite a scorner** (one who makes a mock of sin), **and the simple** (naive, young, foolish) **will beware: And reprove one that hath understanding, and he will understand knowledge.**

- d. If you are not careful they will waste what God gave them in parents Proverbs 19:26 He that **wasteth** *his* father, **and chaseth away** *his* mother, **Is a**

**son that causeth shame, and
bringeth reproach.**

- e. Teach them who to listen to [Proverbs 19:27](#)

**Cease, my son, to hear
the instruction *That*
*causeth to err*** from the words of

knowledge.

23. Teach them manners and etiquette

- a. A child should not dominate everything at meal time
- b. If you need to feed them before then do so
- c. They should never kick or hit an adult

24. Teach your child to work [Proverbs 6:6](#) **Go to the**

ant, thou sluggard; Consider her ways, and be wise: [7](#)

Which having **no guide, overseer, or ruler,**

[8](#) **Provideth** her meat in the summer, *And*

gathereth her food in the harvest. 9 How long wilt thou sleep, O sluggard? When wilt thou arise out of thy sleep? 10 Yet a **little** sleep, a **little** slumber, A **little** folding of the hands to sleep: 11 So **shall thy poverty come as one that travelleth, And thy want as an armed man.**

I Thessalonians 4:11 And that ye **study to be quiet,** and to **do your own business,** and to **work with your own hands,** as we commanded you; II Thessalonians 3:7 For yourselves know how ye **ought to follow us:** for we **behaved not ourselves disorderly among you;** 8 Neither did we eat any man's bread for nought; but **wrought with labour and travail night and day,** that we might not be chargeable to any of you: 9 Not because we have not power, but to **make ourselves an**

ensample unto you to follow us. **10** For even when we were with you, this we commanded you, that if any **would not work, neither should he eat.** **11** For we hear that there are some which **walk among you disorderly, working not at all**, but are **busybodies.** **12** Now them that are such we command and exhort by our Lord Jesus Christ, that **with quietness they work, and eat their own bread.**

- a. Teach them to take care of their toys
- b. Teach them to make the bed, clean the room
- c. Teach them that work is part of life

25. Do not over sympathize with your child

- a. Let them fight their own fights
- b. Do not go fight with the other parents
- c. Do not believe your child over the authority
- d. Do not believe them when they cry

26. Do not allow the child to be idle, just sitting around
- a. Be careful about all the screen time you are using to do your job of parenting
 - b. Teach them to take care of themselves
 - c. Teach them to work
27. Teach your child the value of money and how to manage it
- a. Teach them to pay their debts on time
 - b. Teach them to tithe
 - c. Teach them to give to missions
28. Teach your child to tell the truth
- a. They can't lie or blame others
 - b. They need to know that even discipline will be different if they tell the truth
29. Teach your child not to steal
- a. Teach them not to take things from other's displays
 - b. Or take another child's toy
30. Help them overcome their fears

- a. Do not strengthen their fears by making excuses for them
- b. Do not teach them your fears

31. Teach your child not to be a quitter

32. Teach your child how to act at church

- a. Sit there with their mouth shut
- b. Not to run around
- c. Not to play on platform
- d. Keep a paddle, spoon, pingpong paddle, ruler or glue stick in your bag
- e. If you have spanked them enough showing them the paddle will cause them to be quiet

33. Teach your children to show proper respect for their parents

- a. They are to obey their parents **Ephesians 6:1 Children, obey your parents in the Lord: for this is right. 2 Honour thy father and mother; (which is the first commandment with promise;) 3 That it may be**

well with thee, and thou mayest live long on the earth.

- b. You must discipline or your child will suffer the consequences **Deuteronomy 21:18** If a man have a stubborn and rebellious son, which **will not obey the voice of his father, or the voice of his mother, and that, when they have chastened him, will not hearken unto them:** **19**

Then shall his father and his mother **lay hold on him,** and bring him out unto the elders of his city, and unto the gate of his place; **20** And they shall say unto the elders of his city, This our son *is* stubborn and rebellious, **he will not obey our voice;** *he is* a glutton, and a drunkard. **21** And all the men of his city shall **stone him with stones, that he**

die: so shalt thou **put evil away from among you;** and all Israel shall **hear, and fear.**

- c. Children are cursed if they do not respect their parents, are you preparing them to be cursed

Deuteronomy 27:16 Cursed *be* he that **setteth light by his father or his mother.** And all the people shall say, Amen.

34. Treat and dress boys and girls like what they are

35. Teach them to be content with who they are

- a. They do not have to be constantly trying to prove themselves
- b. It is ok to be me
- c. Example of rabbit, duck, squirrel, and eagle and how they were to live out what God made them to be
- d. Once upon a time, the animals decided they should do something meaningful to meet the problems of the new world. So they organized a school. They adopted an

activity curriculum of running, climbing, swimming and flying. To make it easier to administer the curriculum, all the animals took all the subjects.

- e. The Duck was excellent in swimming; in fact, better than his instructor. But he made only passing grades in flying, and was very poor in running. Since he was slow in running, he had to drop swimming and stay after school to practice running. This caused his web feet to be badly worn, so that he was only average in swimming. But average was quite acceptable, so nobody worried about that – except the Duck.
- f. The Rabbit started at the top of his class in running, but developed a nervous twitch in his leg muscles because of so much make-up work in swimming.
- g. The Squirrel was excellent in climbing, but he encountered constant frustration in flying class because his teacher made him start from the ground up instead of from the treetop down. He developed “charlie horses” from overexertion, and so only got a C in climbing and a D in running.
- h. The Eagle was a problem child and was severely disciplined for being a non-conformist. In climbing

classes he beat all the others to the top of the tree, but insisted on using his own way to get there...

- i. The obvious moral of the story is a simple one – each creature has its own set of capabilities in which it will naturally excel – unless it is expected or forced to fill a mold that it doesn't fit. When that happens, frustration, discouragement, and even guilt bring overall mediocrity or complete defeat. A duck is a duck – and only a duck. It is built to swim, not to run or fly and certainly not to climb. A squirrel is a squirrel – and only that. To move it out of its forte, climbing and then expect it to swim or fly will drive a squirrel nuts. Eagles are beautiful creatures in the air but not in a foot race. The rabbit will win every time unless, of course, the eagle gets hungry.
- j. What is true of creatures in the forest is true of Christians in the family; both the family of believers and the family under your roof. God has not made us all the same. He never intended to. It was He who planned and designed the differences, unique capabilities, and variations in the Body. So concerned was He that we realize this, He spelled it out several times in His final will and testament (see [1 Corinthians 12](#))...

- k. God has placed you in His family and given you a certain mixture that makes you unique. No mixture is insignificant! That mix pleases Him completely. Nobody else is exactly like you. That should bring you pleasure, too. When you operate in the realm of capabilities, you will excel, the whole Body will benefit, and you will experience incredible satisfaction.
- l. When others operate in their realm, balance, unity and health automatically occur in the Body. But when you compare...or force...or entertain expectations that are beyond your or others' God-given capabilities, mediocrity or frustration or phoniness or total defeat is predictable.
- m. If God made you a duck, you're a duck, my friend. Swim like mad, but don't get bent out of shape because you wobble when you run or flap instead of fly. Furthermore, if you're an eagle, stop expecting squirrels to soar, or rabbits to build the same kind of nests you do...
- n. ...When you try to, or force someone else to be something you're not, it only leads to exhaustion and frustration. The worst part of all, what little bit of originality or creativity you have will be consumed in that false role you are forcing.

- o. Why not just be yourself? Why try to be like anybody else?
- p. It's OK to be you.
- q. It's OK to let your family members be who they are, even if their outlook or style may be miles different from yours. Rabbits don't fly, Eagles don't swim, Ducks look funny trying to climb, and Squirrels don't have feathers.
- r. Stop comparing. Enjoy being you! There's plenty of room in the Forest.

36. Teach your child to read

- a. Start by reading to them
- b. Then read with them
- c. Then discuss what they read

37. Teach them that love is not performance based

- a. Love is action **I Corinthians 13:4 Charity suffereth long, and is kind; charity envieth not; charity vaunteth not itself, is not puffed up, 5 Doth not behave itself unseemly,**

seeketh not her own, is not easily

provoked, thinketh no evil; 6 Rejoiceth not

in iniquity, but rejoiceth in the truth; 7 Beareth all things,

believeth all things, hopeth all things, endureth all things.

i. Love is not an emotion based on how our child makes us look it is rather an action based on obedience to God

ii. Bible love is charity love

iii. We love by being patient or suffering long

I Corinthians 13:4 Charity **suffereth long,**

iv. We love by believing in your child and making sure that they know you believe in them I Corinthians 13:7

believeth all things,

v. We love by letting them know we will always be there and never quit loving them I Corinthians 13:7

Beareth all things, **believeth** all things,

hopeth all things, **endureth** all things.

b. Our love should always be greater than their fault just like God has for us Romans 5:20 Moreover the law entered, that the offence might abound. But **where sin**

**abounded, grace did much more
abound:**

- c. Love them by letting them know they are accepted

Ephesians 1:6 To the praise of the glory of his grace,
wherein **he hath made us accepted in
the beloved.**

38. Teach them that pleasing God is far more important than
pleasing you

- a. God ponders, examines what they are doing and saying
Proverbs 5:21 For the ways of man *are* before the eyes of
the Lord, And **he pondereth all his goings.**
- b. There is no place where they can go that God will not see
Proverbs 15:3 The eyes of the Lord *are* in every place,
Beholding the evil and the good.

39. Teach them to be sensitive to the voice of the Holy Spirit

- a. He will guide us into truth [John 16:13](#) Howbeit when he, the **Spirit of truth**, is come, **he will guide you into all truth:** for he shall not speak of himself; but whatsoever he shall hear, *that* shall he speak: and he will shew you things to come.
- b. He will make us remember [John 14:26](#) But the Comforter, *which is* the Holy Ghost, whom the Father will send in my name, he shall **teach you all things**, and **bring all things to your remembrance**, whatsoever I have said unto you.
- c. For this to happen we need to help them to fill their hearts with truth that He can cause to come to their minds [Isaiah 30:21](#) And thine ears shall **hear a word behind thee**, saying, *This is the way*, walk ye in it, When ye turn to the right hand, and when ye turn to the left.

- d. We can grieve the Spirit [Ephesians 4:30](#) And **grieve not the holy Spirit of God**, whereby ye are sealed unto the day of redemption.
- e. We can disobey to the point that we no longer feel his voice [Ephesians 4:19](#) Who **being past feeling** have given themselves over unto lasciviousness, to work all uncleanness with greediness. [I Thessalonians 5:19](#)
- Quench not the Spirit.**

40. We must teach them to think for themselves

- a. By teaching the Scriptures to them—family devotions and Bible reading [II Timothy 3:15](#) And that from a child thou hast known the holy scriptures, which are **able to make thee wise unto salvation** through faith which is in Christ Jesus. [16](#) All scripture *is* given by inspiration of God, and *is* profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for **instruction in righteousness**: [17](#) That the man of God may be

perfect, **thoroughly furnished unto all good works.**

- b. By helping them to memorize Scriptures [Psalms 119:11](#)

Thy word have I hid in mine heart, **That I might**

not sin against thee. [Psalms 37:31](#) The law of

his God *is* in his heart; **None of his steps shall**

slide. [Psalm 40:8](#) **I delight to do thy will,**

O my God: Yea, thy law *is* **within my heart.**

[Colossians 3:16](#) **Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom;**

teaching and admonishing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with grace in your hearts to the Lord.

- c. Teach them to meditate in the Scriptures [Joshua 1:8](#) **This**

book of the law shall not depart out of thy mouth; but thou shalt meditate therein day and night, that thou

mayest **observe to do according to all**

that is written therein: for then thou shalt make

thy way prosperous, and **then thou shalt have good success.**

- d. Teach them to examine everything [Acts 17:11](#) These were more noble than those in Thessalonica, in that they received the word with all readiness of mind, and **searched the scriptures daily, whether those things were so.**

41.To keep themselves holy and pure sexually

[I Thessalonians 4:1](#) Furthermore then we beseech you, brethren, and exhort *you* by the Lord Jesus, that as ye have received of us how ye **ought to walk and to please God,** so ye would abound more and more. [2](#) For ye know what commandments we gave you by the Lord Jesus. [3](#) For **this is the will of God, even your sanctification, that ye should abstain from fornication:** [4](#) That every one of you should know how to **possess his vessel in**

sanctification and honour; 5 Not in the **lust of concupiscence,** even as the Gentiles which know not God: 6 That no *man* **go beyond and defraud** his brother in *any* matter: because that the Lord *is* the avenger of all such, as we also have forewarned you and testified. 7 For **God hath not called us unto uncleanness, but unto holiness.** 8 He therefore that despiseth, despiseth not man, but God, who hath also given unto us his holy Spirit.

42.To guard their heart and mind or thought life [Proverbs 4:23](#)

Keep thy heart with all diligence; For **out of it** *are* the issues of life.

a. To know that their hearts and thoughts are the very center of everything that they are or will do [Proverbs 23:7](#)

For as he thinketh in his heart, so is he: Eat and drink, saith he to thee; But his heart *is* not with thee. [Matthew 15:19](#) For **out of the heart**

proceed evil thoughts, murders, adulteries, fornications, thefts, false witness, blasphemies: 20 These are *the things* which defile a man: but to eat with unwashen hands defileth not a man.

b. To think only on what is right **Philippians 4:8** Finally, brethren, whatsoever things are true, whatsoever things *are* honest, whatsoever things *are* just, whatsoever things *are* pure, whatsoever things *are* lovely, whatsoever things *are* of good report; if *there be* any virtue, and if *there be* any praise, **think on these things.**

c. To keep bitterness out of their heart **Hebrews 12:15**
Looking diligently lest any man fail of the grace of God; lest any **root of bitterness** springing up trouble *you*, and thereby many be defiled;

Book recommendations

Shepherding a Child's Heart by Tedd Tripp

The Disciple-Making Parent By Chap Bettis

52 Things Kids Need From a Dad by Jay Payleitner

Making Children Mind Without Losing Yours by Kevin Lehman

How to Have a New Kid by Friday by Kevin Lehman

How to Bring Your Children to Christ..& Keep Them There by Ray Comfort

The Tech-Wise Family by Andy Crouch

Grace Based Parenting by Tim Kemmel

Planet Middle school by Kevin Leman

Family Worship by Donald S. Whitney

King Me by Steve Farrar

How to Help Your Anxious Teen by Jessica Thompson

From Surviving to Thriving by Chuck Swindoll

Ten Secrets of the Successful by Adrian Rogers

Books by James Dobson

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Deacons, Spiritual Servant Leaders

I Timothy 3:8 Likewise *must* the deacons *be* grave, not doubletongued, not given to much wine, not greedy of filthy lucre; 9 Holding the mystery of the faith in a pure conscience. 10 And let these also first be proved; then let them use the office of a deacon, being *found* blameless. 11 Even so *must their wives be* grave, not slanderers, sober, faithful in all things. 12 Let the deacons be the husbands of one wife, ruling their children and their own houses well. 13 For they that have used the office of a deacon well purchase to themselves a good degree, and great boldness in the faith which is in Christ Jesus.

1. First mention of deacons in the Bible Acts 6:1 And in those days, when the number of the disciples was multiplied, there arose a murmuring of the Grecians against the Hebrews, because their widows were neglected in the daily ministration. 2 Then the twelve called the multitude of the disciples *unto them*, and said, It is not reason that we should leave the word of God, and serve tables. 3

Wherefore, brethren, look ye out among you seven men of honest report, full of the Holy Ghost and wisdom, whom we may appoint over this business. 4 But we will give ourselves continually to prayer, and to the ministry of the word. 5 And the saying pleased the whole multitude: and they chose Stephen, a man full of faith and of the Holy Ghost, and Philip, and Prochorus, and Nicanor, and Timon, and Parmenas, and Nicolas a proselyte of Antioch: 6 Whom they set before the apostles: and when they had prayed, they laid *their* hands on them. 7 And the word of God increased; and the number of the disciples multiplied in Jerusalem greatly; and a great company of the priests were obedient to the faith.

- a. The power of the Holy Spirit caused the church to grow greatly Acts 6:1 And in those days, when the number of the disciples was multiplied, there arose a murmuring of the Grecians against the Hebrews, because their widows were neglected in the daily ministration.
- i. Acts 1:8 But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judaea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth.

Acts 1:15 And in those days Peter stood up in the midst of the disciples, and said, (the number of names together were about an hundred and twenty,)

Acts 2:41 Then they that gladly received his word were baptized: and the same day there were added *unto them* about three thousand souls. **Acts 2:47** Praising God, and having favour with all the people. And the Lord added to the church daily such as should be saved.

Acts 4:4 Howbeit many of them which heard the word believed; and the number of the men was about five thousand.

Acts 5:14 And believers were the more added to the Lord, multitudes both of men and

women.) **Acts 6:1** And in those days, when the number of the disciples was multiplied, there arose a murmuring of the Grecians against the Hebrews, because their widows were neglected in the daily ministration.

ii. The church may have had a membership of 25,000 or more

b. Church growth caused problems **Acts 6:1** And in those days, when the number of the disciples was multiplied, there arose a murmuring of the Grecians against the

Hebrews, because their widows were neglected in the daily ministration.

- c. The solution **Acts 6:3** Wherefore, brethren, look ye out among you seven men of honest report, full of the Holy Ghost and wisdom, whom we may appoint over this business.
- d. The purpose of deacons **Acts 6:2** Then the twelve called the multitude of the disciples *unto them*, and said, It is not reason that we should leave the word of God, and serve tables. **Acts 6:4** But we will give ourselves continually to prayer, and to the ministry of the word.
- e. Selection process **Acts 6:3** Wherefore, brethren, look ye out among you seven men of honest report, full of the Holy Ghost and wisdom, whom we may appoint over this business. **Acts 6:5** And the saying pleased the whole multitude: and they chose Stephen, a man full of faith and of the Holy Ghost, and Philip, and Prochorus, and Nicanor, and Timon, and Parmenas, and Nicolas a proselyte of Antioch:
- f. Deacon service **Acts 6:2** Then the twelve called the multitude of the disciples *unto them*, and said, It is not reason that we should leave the word of God, and serve

tables. 3 Wherefore, brethren, look ye out among you seven men of honest report, full of the Holy Ghost and wisdom, whom we may appoint over this business.

g. The result of naming the deacons and their service

Acts 6:7 And the word of God increased; and the number of the disciples multiplied in Jerusalem greatly; and a gre

2. Characteristics of the deacons

a. Be

i. Pure conscience I Timothy 3:9 Holding the mystery of the faith in a pure conscience.

ii. A right attitude towards money I Timothy 3:8 Likewise *must* the deacons *be* grave, not doubletongued, not given to much wine, not greedy of filthy lucre; I Timothy 6:6 But godliness with contentment is great gain. 7 For we brought nothing into *this* world, *and it is* certain we can carry nothing out. 8 And having food and raiment let us be therewith content. 9 But they that will be rich fall into temptation and a snare, and *into* many foolish and hurtful lusts, which drown men in destruction and perdition. 10 For the love of money is the root of all evil: which while some coveted after, they

have erred from the faith, and pierced themselves through with many sorrows.

- iii. Grave, serious, dignified [I Timothy 3:8](#) Likewise *must* the deacons *be* grave, not doubletongued, not given to much wine, not greedy of filthy lucre;
- iv. Blameless [I Timothy 3:10](#) And let these also first be proved; then let them use the office of a deacon, being *found* blameless.

b. Do

- i. Let them be proved [I Timothy 3:10](#) And let these also first be proved; then let them use the office of a deacon, being *found* blameless.
- ii. Sincere, honest not double tongued [I Timothy 3:8](#) Likewise *must* the deacons *be* grave, not doubletongued, not given to much wine, not greedy of filthy lucre; [Psalms 15:2](#) He that walketh uprightly, and worketh righteousness, And speaketh the truth in his heart.
- iii. Home life that impacts wife and children [I Timothy 3:12](#) Let the deacons be the husbands of one wife, ruling their children and their own houses well.

iv. Likewise they must be of good report [I Timothy 3:8](#)
Likewise must the deacons be grave, not doubletongued, not given to much wine, not greedy of filthy lucre;

c. Serve

- i. Then let them use the office [I Timothy 3:10](#) *And let these also first be proved; then let them use the office of a deacon, being found blameless.*
- ii. The word means serve and that is the use in the first mention

d. Train

- i. First one to train is their family [I Timothy 3:11](#) *Even so must their wives be grave, not slanderers, sober, faithful in all things. 12 Let the deacons be the husbands of one wife, ruling their children and their own houses well.*
- ii. Those that they can influence with their good degree [I Timothy 3:13](#) *For they that have used the office of a deacon well purchase to themselves a good degree, and great boldness in the faith which is in Christ Jesus.*

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Biblical Deacons

Acts 6:1-8

1. The power of the Holy Spirit has caused great growth to come to the church Acts 6:1 And in those days, when the **number of the disciples was multiplied**, there arose a **murmuring** of the Grecians against the Hebrews, because their **widows were neglected** in the daily ministration.
- a. The book of Acts is the story of the power of the Holy Spirit to witness and win souls Acts 1:8 But ye shall **receive power, after that the Holy Ghost** is come upon you: and **ye shall be witnesses** unto me **both** in Jerusalem, and in all Judaea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth.

- b. There were only 120 people counting women in the upper room [Acts 1:15](#) And in those days Peter stood up in the **midst of the disciples,** and said, (the **number of names together were about an hundred and twenty,**)
- c. The day of Pentecost 3000 people accept Jesus as their Savior [Acts 2:41](#) Then they that **gladly received his word** were **baptized:** and the same day there were **added unto them** about **three thousand souls.**
- d. The Lord Jesus begins to add to the church every day [Acts 2:47](#) Praising God, and having favour with all the people. And the **Lord added to the church daily** such as should be saved.
- e. 5000 men accept Christ without mentioning the women or children that also accepted Jesus [Acts 4:4](#) **Howbeit many of them which heard the word believed; and the**

number of the men was about five thousand.

f. Great numbers are added to the church of both men and women **Acts 5:14** And **believers** were the **more**

added to the Lord, **multitudes both of men and women.**)

g. The number of believers multiplied **Acts 6:1** And in those days, when the **number of the disciples was multiplied**, there arose a **murmuring** of the Grecians against the Hebrews, because their **widows were neglected** in the daily ministration.

h. The church may have had as many as 25,000 members

2. Growth causes problems **Acts 6:1** And in those days, when the **number of the disciples was multiplied**, there arose a **murmuring** of the

Grecians against the Hebrews, because their **widows were neglected** in the daily ministration.

- a. Murmuring and divisions
- b. People--problems are not being taken cared for
- c. The pastors couldn't meet all the needs of the church
- d. The pastors did not have time for prayer, message preparation because they had to be too busy counseling brethren and listening to complaints
- e. Their priorities had turned from the spiritual ministry to the carnal needs
- f. The first deacons will be added to solve problems for the pastors of the church
- g. These men will be there to help the apostles do the job God called them to do, helpers, servants

3. The proposal **Acts 6:3** Wherefore, brethren, **look ye out** among you seven men of honest report, full of the Holy Ghost and wisdom, whom we may appoint over this business.

- a. The apostles spoke to the church with an idea, a proposal

- b. Like in the days of Moses when he delegated part of his authority to others to help him lead and judge Israel

Exodus 18

- c. Look out among you 7 men that can be appointed over this business
- d. The pastors were going to dedicate themselves to the ministry of the word and prayer Acts 6:4 But we will **give ourselves continually to prayer, and to the ministry of the word.**

- 4. The purpose Acts 6:2 Then **the twelve called** the multitude of the disciples *unto them*, and said, **It is not reason that we should leave the word of God, and serve tables.** Acts 6:4 But we will **give ourselves continually to prayer, and to the ministry of the word.**

- a. They would be able to dedicate all their energy to the word of God, prayer, and ministry

- b. The men of God would be able to be completely in the work
- c. Notice they did not have deacons when they organized the church but they come now to have deacons when there is a need for their service

5. Steps for choosing deacons

- a. The pastors saw the need, it was their idea to have deacons **Acts 6:2** Then **the twelve called** the multitude of the disciples *unto them*, and said, **It is not reason that we should leave the word of God, and serve tables.**
- b. They make a proposal to the church **Acts 6:3** Wherefore, brethren, **look ye out** among you seven men of honest report, full of the Holy Ghost and wisdom, whom we may appoint over this business.
- c. The pastors gave the requirements, they were not chosen because of their popularity or their money **Acts 6:3** Wherefore, brethren, **look ye out** among you seven

men of **honest report, full of the**

Holy Ghost and **wisdom,** whom we may
appoint over this business.

- d. They were brethren from within the church
- e. The church chose the deacons under the conditions given
by the pastors **Acts 6:3** Wherefore, brethren, **look ye
out** among you seven men of **honest report,
full of the Holy Ghost** and
wisdom, whom we may appoint over this business.
- f. The pastors approved the deacons **Acts 6:6** Whom they
set before the apostles: and when **they
had prayed, they laid *their* hands on
them.**
- g. The pastors laid hands on the men in front of everyone
(ordination) **Acts 6:6** Whom they **set before the
apostles:** and when **they had prayed,**

they laid *their* hands on them.

6. Their ministry

- a. Serve tables
- b. Work that was assigned them by the pastors
- c. Take care of the widows
- d. Free the hands of the pastor
- e. Take care of the pastor

7. The reward

- a. The word grows [Acts 6:7](#) And the **word of God increased;** and the number of the **disciples multiplied** in Jerusalem **greatly;** and a **great company of the priests were obedient to the faith.**
- b. The church multiplies greatly
- c. Even the Jewish priests began to accept Christ
- d. Everyone was doing their part

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Biblical Deacons II

Acts 6:1-8

- God has sent great growth on His church Matthew 16:18
- With growth came problems and divisions
- The pastors proposed to the church the idea of having deacons
- Their purpose in choosing deacons was for them to take care of many ministries and allow them time for the preaching, praying, planning, and working as leaders of the ministry
- Deacons are servants and exist to meet the needs of the church members

I. Steps for choosing deacons

- a. The pastors saw the need, it was their idea to have deacons Acts 6:2
- b. They make a proposal to the church Acts 6:3
- c. The pastors gave the requirements, they were not chosen because of their popularity or their money Acts 6:3

- d.They were brethren from within the church
- e.The church chose the deacons under the conditions given by the pastors Acts 6:3
- f. The pastors approved the deacons Acts 6:6
- g.The pastors laid hands on the men in front of everyone (ordination) Acts 6:6

II. Their ministry

- a.Serve tables
- b.Work that was assigned them by the pastors
- c.Take care of the widows
- d.Free the hands of the pastor
- e.Take care of the pastor

III. The reward

- a.The word grows Acts 6:7
- b.The church multiplies greatly
- c.Even the Jewish priests began to accept Christ
- d.Everyone was doing their part

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Biblical Picture of a Deacon

Acts 6:1 And in those days, when the **number of the disciples was multiplied**, there arose a **murmuring** of the Grecians against the Hebrews, because their widows were **neglected** in the daily ministration. 2 Then **the twelve** called the multitude of the disciples *unto them*, and said, **It is not reason that we should leave the word of God, and serve tables.** 3 Wherefore, brethren, look ye out among you seven men of **honest report, full of the Holy Ghost and wisdom, whom we may appoint over this business.** 4 But we will **give ourselves continually to prayer, and to the ministry of the word.** 5 And the saying pleased the whole multitude: and they chose Stephen, a man **full of faith and of the Holy Ghost**, and

Philip, and Prochorus, and Nicanor, and Timon, and Parmenas, and Nicolas a proselyte of Antioch: 6 Whom they set before the apostles: and when they had prayed, they laid *their* hands on them. 7 And **the word of God increased; and the number of the disciples multiplied in Jerusalem greatly;** and a great company of the priests were obedient to the faith.

1. He is to be of honest report Acts 6:3 Wherefore, brethren, look ye out among you seven men of **honest report,** full of the Holy Ghost and wisdom, whom we may appoint over this business.
 - a. What do people that know him say about him, what would their testimony about him be
 - b. Do people speak positively about this person
 - c. Would people praise his character, his family, his work ethic, his knowledge of God and the Bible
 - d. Is he considered a man of integrity, seen as faithful, trustworthy, morally upright and trusted by all

- e. What do you need to be working on right now to improve your testimony
 - i. Are you in your place consistently and faithfully?
 - ii. Do you fulfill your ministry?
 - iii. Do you handle your money faithfully? Do you pay your bills?
 - iv. Do you faithfully tithe and give to missions?
 - v. Have you read your Bible through? How many times?
 - vi. Do you share your faith?
 - vii. Do you have moral victory in your life? Do you live in spiritual victory?

2. He is to be full of the Holy Spirit and wisdom! [Acts 6:3](#)

Wherefore, brethren, look ye out among you seven men of honest report, **full of the Holy Ghost** and **wisdom**, whom we may appoint over this business.

- a. Does he have a reputation for being filled with the Spirit and wisdom?
 - i. That speaks of proven character
 - ii. It means to be controlled by the Spirit of God not sinful nature and selfish desires

- iii. Do you live in awesome respect, fear of the Lord, which would indicate the beginning of wisdom
- b. Does he esteem the ministry of the Word and prayer above the practical needs of the church
 - i. The purpose for these early deacons was to see to it that the apostles could fulfill the ministry of the Word and prayer
 - ii. Their job was to free up the apostles to do the ministry of the Word and prayer not be in competition with it
 - iii. There are practical needs that must be attended to but God is more important than man, eternity more important than time
- c. Is there evidence of the fruit of the Spirit in his life

Galatians 5:22 But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, 23 Meekness, temperance: against such there is no law.

 - i. As a deacon deals with tough issues he will need to have the power of the Holy Spirit
 - ii. He will need to be surrendered to truth and the Holy Spirit
 - iii. Potential deacons should not stir up strife but settle it
 - iv. Does the potential deacon gossip.

- v. Do people that deal with the potential deacon feel genuinely loved and treated well when they interact with him
- d. Is there evidence of Spirit filled inspired wisdom

James 3:13 Who *is* a **wise man** and **endued with knowledge** among you? let him shew out of a **good conversation his works** with meekness of wisdom. ¹⁴ But if ye have **bitter envying** and **strife in your hearts**, glory not, and lie not against the truth. ¹⁵ **This wisdom** descendeth not from above, but ***is* earthly, sensual, devilish.** ¹⁶ For where **envying and strife** *is*, there *is* **confusion and every evil work.** ¹⁷ But **the wisdom that is from above** is first **pure**, then **peaceable, gentle, and easy to be intreated, full**

of mercy and good fruits, without partiality, and without hypocrisy.

- i. Does he have discernment, insight, and sound judgement
- ii. Is he slow to speak, quick to listen and slow to get angry **James 1:19** Wherefore, my beloved brethren, let every man be **swift to hear, slow to speak, slow to wrath:** **20** For the wrath of man worketh not the righteousness of God.
- iii. Does he consider the ideas of others or is he so committed to his own ideas that he will not pay attention **Philippians 2:3** *Let* **nothing be done through strife or vainglory;** but in **lowliness of mind let each esteem other better than themselves.**

- 3. He is to be a servant **Acts 6:3** Wherefore, brethren, look ye out among you seven men of honest report, full of the Holy

Ghost and wisdom, whom we may **appoint over this business.**

- a. They were taking care of the widows, serving the tables
- b. Our goal must be that we are here to serve [Mark 10:45](#)

For even the **Son of man came not to be ministered unto, but to minister,** and to give his life a ransom for many.

- c. We are to humble ourselves [Philippians 2:3](#) *Let nothing be done* through strife or vainglory; but in lowliness of mind let each esteem other better than themselves. ⁴ **Look not every man on his own things,** but every man also on the things of others. ⁵ **Let this mind be in you,** which was also in Christ Jesus: ⁶ Who, being in the form of God, thought it not robbery to be equal with God: ⁷ But **made himself of no reputation,** and took upon him the **form of a servant,** and was made in the likeness of men: ⁸ And

being found in fashion as a man, he **humbled himself,** and became **obedient unto death,** even the death of the cross.

d. Are you ready for the menial tasks and duties that get little glory and very little applause

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Deacon Ministry

1. Ministries our deacons should and can be involved in
 - a. Call on people who are in the hospital.
 - b. Visit new people in the church.
 - c. Meet the needs of hurting people or those going through trials.
 - d. Arrange help for the widows.
 - e. Regularly call on members, reviewing their spiritual condition, devotion and tithing habits.
 - f. Entertain people in the home.
 - g. Work with people who are not disciplined in finances to encourage them to become better stewards.
2. If you are considering being a deacon you should make sure that you are displaying the servanthood characteristics of a deacon
 - a. Is this man serving others rather than himself?
 - b. Is he helping those in need?

- c. Is he calling on those that need encouragement?
- d. Is he encouraging the leadership?
- e. Is he willing to do the most menial tasks in the church?
- f. Are you looking for power or prestige
- g. Do you realize the amount of work a good deacon should be doing
- h. Where are you already serving
- i. How is your personal daily walk with the Lord Jesus
- j. How are you leading your family
- k. Is your wife on board and serving just like you and as you intend to serve
- l. Do you tithe and give to the ministry of Vision
- m. Can you explain Vision's Biblical position on all major issues
- n. How is your marriage, thought life
- o. Can you see how God has prepared you spiritually to serve as a deacon?
- p. Is your pastor enthusiastic about you serving? Remember, this is a team activity. If you have issues with the pastor, it may not be the wisest choice to serve.

- q. Since your wife will be highly involved in hospitality and counseling, is she in complete agreement with you serving as a deacon?
- r. Have other godly men suggested you serve as a deacon?
- s. Have you been through foundations and are you currently involved in foundations with someone

3. Do you understand the definition of a church: A local church is an organized body of believers that have been born again by the Spirit through the blood of Jesus Christ, immersed upon confession of faith, and who have banded together to follow Christ, observe the ordinances, fulfill the great commission through evangelism and discipleship.

a. Our main purposes are:

- i. To evangelize the world in our generation
- ii. Doctrine- the systematic teaching of God's word.
- iii. Fellowship- interaction between believers.
- iv. Breaking bread- the Lord 's Supper.
- v. Prayer- dependence on God.

b. God gave the church both pastors and deacons

c. As deacons you will lead by:

- i. Lead as a spiritual man, demonstrating this in personal preparation for services, warmth of fellowship, friendliness to strangers, respect in the community, etc.
 - ii. Lead as a caring man for the needy, personally helping those who have needs.
 - iii. Lead as one who is a disciple maker.
 - iv. Lead as one who shows hospitality in the home.
 - v. Lead as one who can organize others to good works.
 - vi. Deacons are the caretakers of the membership. The body of believers in the membership would be divided among the deacons. Each deacon would be responsible to care for his membership group.
- d. How can deacons care for our members
- i. Meet with our people
 - ii. Find out how they are doing in their spiritual lives
 - iii. Get them involved in discipleship
 - iv. Help them have family devotions
 - v. Help them get involved in ministries of the church
- e. Meeting ideas
- i. Listen to them
 - ii. Let the person know you believe God has something to say about it.

1. Gives you time to think about it and pray.
2. Gives you time to consult with the pastor.
3. Allows another time to get back with them, building the relationship.

iii. Things to remember when dealing with problems

1. Recognize reality- most people with problems are not facing the truth.
2. Realize the resources- God has multiple ways to help you.
3. React responsibly- Don't panic. Determine to do the right thing.

iv. Always give them a portion of scripture to memorize.

Remember, the Bible promises success to those who hide God's Word in their heart. You cannot beat it.

v. Realize the power of prayer. I believe that if you and the person counseled will regularly ask for God's help specifically, God will answer that prayer.

4. Temptations to avoid

a. Money

- i. Money is the power to get what we want.
- ii. Money is not bad, but the love of it is dangerous.

- iii. Do you live on what you have?
- iv. Do you carry over credit on your cards?
- v. Do you know contentment?
- vi. Do you want all the overtime you can get?
- vii. Is your greatest pleasure in buying things?
- viii. Do you give benevolently?
- ix. Are you tithing?

b. Women

- i. pornography
- ii. Kindness from a woman can be taken wrong. The woman doesn't even know she is enticing you.
- iii. Appreciation. When men serve, women respond with appreciation. Sometimes the appreciation at home is taken for granted and not expressed, and this new appreciation can lead to wrong conclusions.
- iv. This kindness or appreciation leads to infatuation. Infatuation is imagining something that is not there. It is letting your mind wander into lustful thinking. The truth is never found in infatuation. This will consume your mind. Beware of the lies of infatuation.
- v. enjoy the wife of your youth. Make plans to court your wife. This should be part of your life purpose.

vi. Think biblically. Remember, you cannot do better than God's Word says. Follow it carefully.

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Why does a church need deacons?

I Timothy 3:8 **Likewise** *must* the deacons *be* grave, not doubletongued, not given to much wine, not greedy of filthy lucre; 9 Holding the mystery of the faith in a pure conscience. 10 And let these also **first be proved**; then let them use the office of a deacon, being *found* blameless. 11 **Even so must their wives** *be* grave, not slanderers, sober, faithful in all things. 12 Let the deacons be the husbands of one wife, ruling their children and their own houses well. 13 For they that have used the office of a deacon well purchase to themselves a good degree, and great boldness in the faith which is in Christ Jesus.

1. Because Jesus hates the doctrine of the Nicolaitans

Revelation 2:6 But this thou hast, that thou **hatest the deeds of the Nicolaitans**, which I also hate.

Revelation 2:15 So hast thou also them that hold the **doctrine of the Nicolaitans**, which thing I hate.

- a. Along with many other bad doctrines and behaviors the Nicolaitans were people who wanted rank and privilege among God's people
- b. The word means to conquer the people
- c. It seems that they may have been a group that lorded it over the church and stole their liberty in Christ
- d. This is similar to Diotrephes **III John 9** I wrote unto the church: but **Diotrephes**, who loveth to have the **preeminence** among them, receiveth us not. **10** Wherefore, if I come, I will remember his deeds which he doeth, prating against us with malicious words: and not content therewith, **neither doth he himself receive the brethren, and forbiddeth them that would, and casteth them out of the church.** **11** Beloved, follow not *that which is evil*, but *that which is good*. He that doeth good is of God: but he that doeth evil hath not seen God.
- e. The Nicolaitans initiated a false division in the church, clergy and laity.

- f. The anointed and the non anointed
- g. Yet all of God's people are kings and priests [1 Peter 2:9](#)

But *ye are* a **chosen generation, a royal priesthood**, an holy nation, a peculiar people; that ye should shew forth the praises of him who hath called you out of darkness into his marvellous light:

[Revelation 1:6](#) And hath made us **kings and priests** unto God and his Father; to him *be* glory and dominion for ever and ever. Amen.

- h. We all have equal access [Hebrews 10:19](#) **Having therefore, brethren, boldness to enter into the holiest by the blood of Jesus**, [20](#) By a new and living way, which he hath consecrated for us, through the veil, that is to say, his flesh; [21](#) And *having* an high priest over the house of God; [22](#) **Let us draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith**, having our hearts sprinkled from an evil conscience, and our

bodies washed with pure water. 23 Let us hold fast the profession of *our* faith without wavering; (for he *is* faithful that promised;) 24 And let us consider one another to provoke unto love and to good works: 25 Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as the manner of some *is*; but exhorting *one another*: and so much the more, as ye see the day approaching.

2. Biblically there is little difference between the bishop, the deacon, and the regular member of the church. We all ought to be God's people.
3. As a basic Baptist distinctive we believe in the priesthood of the believer
4. Another basic Baptist distinctive is individual soul liberty
5. I want Vision to stand clearly for strong laymen that love their church and lead it forward

6. I want you to take ownership of this church, you are not renters, you are owners
7. There ought never be an inferiority complex on the part of God's people.

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Being an Effective, Efficient Servant

1. The biblical relationship between the word deacon and servant
 - a. The word deacon means servant I Timothy 3:8, 12 There are several greek words used to describe this service
 - i. Servant Matthew 22:3-6 speaks of a slave
 - ii. Minister Ephesians 3:7
 - iii. Deacon I Timothy 3:8, 12 helper
 - b. The called, the seven deacons in Acts 6 are not called deacons but their type of service causes them to function in this manner Acts 6:1-4
2. Biblical principles that we see with this service
 - a. We must serve with the right attitude Psalm 100:2 The service must be given sincerely or without a divided heart Matthew 6:24 Luke 4:8 The service must be based on obedience and commitment John 12:26 We must serve in spite of difficulties Acts 27:23

- b. We must serve with a spirit of love Galatians 5:13 We must serve others as though we were serving Jesus Himself Ephesians 6:7
- c. We must serve with the gifts that God has given us I Peter 4:10-11 This service must be given faithfully I Corinthians 4:1-2 This service must be given voluntarily I Corinthians 9:16-17

3. Conclusion

- a. The deacons are servants of high spiritual qualities and caliber I Timothy 3:8-13 The deacons as servants “use” the office of deacon I Timothy 3:10, 13
- b. The deacons who serve well will be spiritually rewarded I Timothy 3:13

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Qualifications for Deacons

I Timothy 3:8 **Likewise** *must the deacons be **grave,***
not doubletongued, not given to much wine, not greedy of
filthy lucre;

1. The meaning of the word deacon

a. Speaks of someone who is busy assisting someone else

i. That is the first picture we see in Acts 6

ii. Those men assisted the apostles so that they could
dedicate themselves to the Word and prayer

b. The English word deacon is only found in our Bible 5
times

i. Four of these times are in this passage

ii. The other is **Philippians 1:1** **Paul and Timotheus, the**
servants of Jesus Christ, to all the saints in Christ Jesus
which are at Philippi, with the bishops and

deacons:

iii. The word behind deacon is used many times

1. A servant doing the bidding of another [Matthew 22:13](#)

Then said the king to the **servants**, Bind him hand and foot, and take him away, and cast *him* into outer darkness; there shall be weeping and gnashing of teeth. [John 2:5](#) His mother saith unto the

servants, Whatsoever he saith unto you, do *it*.

[John 2:9](#) When the ruler of the feast had tasted the water that was made wine, and knew not whence it was: (but the **servants** which drew the water knew;) the governor of the feast called the bridegroom,

- a. The same word is not necessarily a spiritual word
- b. It is a servant doing a job for another

2. The secret to spiritual greatness [Matthew 20:26](#) But it

shall not be so among you: but whosoever will be great among you, let him be your **minister**;

[Matthew 23:11](#) But he that is greatest among you shall be your **servant**. [Mark 9:35](#) And he sat down, and called the twelve, and saith unto them, If

any man desire to be first, *the same* shall be last of all, and **servant** of all. Mark 10:43 But so shall it not be among you: but whosoever will be great among you, shall be your **minister**:

- a. The same word for deacon is translated minister
 - b. Minister means servant
 - c. We are embarrassed to be considered a servant
 - d. We may want a title but not a duty
 - e. We may consider the honor but not the actual use of the word
3. Spiritual service to Jesus with promise, and intimacy implied John 12:26 If any man serve me, let him follow me; and where I am, there shall also my **servant** be: if any man serve me, him will *my* Father honour.
- a. The word servant explains what a deacon is
 - b. There is the promise of being with Him and being honored
 - c. But we are but servants

4. Government officials are deacons **Romans 13:4** For he is the **minister** of God to thee for good. But if thou do that which is evil, be afraid; for he beareth not the sword in vain: for he is the minister of God, a revenger to *execute* wrath upon him that doeth evil.
- a. Politicians do not understand that they are actually servants of God
 - b. They are actually supposed to be doing His bidding
5. Jesus was a deacon **Romans 15:8** Now I say that Jesus Christ was a **minister** of the circumcision for the truth of God, to confirm the promises *made* unto the fathers:
- a. Jesus humbled Himself to be a minister, a servant, a deacon
 - b. He was there to prove to them the truth of God's Word
 - c. He humbled Himself to be even mistreated by them
6. The word deacon is used in reference to Phebe **Romans 16:1** I commend unto you Phebe our sister, which is a **servant** of the church which is at Cenchrea:

- a. She doesn't have the title deacon but she was doing the job of a deacon, serving
 - b. She served her church
 - c. I wondered what she did to be so recognized
7. Paul and Apollos were deacons **I Corinthians 3:5** Who then is Paul, and who *is* Apollos, but **ministers** by whom ye believed, even as the Lord gave to every man? **II Corinthians 11:23** Are they **ministers** of Christ? (I speak as a fool) I *am* more; in labours more abundant, in stripes above measure, in prisons more frequent, in deaths oft.
- a. Even Paul and Apollos should not be lifted up to something more than a servant
 - b. We serve Christ to get the gospel to people
 - c. Serving meant suffering
8. He has made us all deacons of the new testament **II Corinthians 3:6** Who also hath made us able **ministers** of the new testament; not of the letter, but of the spirit: for the letter killeth, but the spirit giveth life. **II Corinthians 6:4** But in all *things*

- approving ourselves as the **ministers** of God, in much patience, in afflictions, in necessities, in distresses, **Colossians 1:25** Whereof I am made a **minister**, according to the dispensation of God which is given to me for you, to fulfil the word of God;
- a. We were not given a title of honor but of servant
 - b. We serve His new testament, His blood shed, to give our lives like He did
 - c. No matter what it takes, how much we suffer we want to be considered His servants
 - d. God gives us the privilege of being His servants
9. Satan has deacons **II Corinthians 11:15** Therefore *it is* no great thing if his **ministers** also be transformed as the **ministers** of righteousness; whose end shall be according to their works.
- a. The word means servant so even the wicked one has some
 - b. They can fake it like a servant of God even when they are not

10. A person can become a deacon of sin [Galatians 2:17](#)

But if, while we seek to be justified by Christ, we ourselves also are found sinners, *is* therefore Christ the **minister** of sin? God forbid.

a. We really choose who we serve

b. Are we serving God

c. Are we living in sin then we are the deacons of sin

11. Paul felt God had made him a deacon, a minister, of

God's [Ephesians 3:7](#) Whereof I was made a

minister, according to the gift of the grace of

God given unto me by the effectual working of his

power. [Colossians 1:23](#) If ye continue in the faith

grounded and settled, and *be* not moved away from

the hope of the gospel, which ye have heard, *and*

which was preached to every creature which is under

heaven; whereof I Paul am made a **minister**;

a. Made a minister, an honor to be His servant

b. We serve at His pleasure not ours

12. The Lord's deacon [Ephesians 6:21](#) But that ye also

may know my affairs, *and* how I do, Tychicus, a

beloved brother and faithful **minister** in the Lord,
shall make known to you all things: Colossians 1:7 As
ye also learned of Epaphras our dear fellowservant,
who is for you a faithful **minister** of Christ;

Colossians 4:7 All my state shall Tychicus declare unto
you, *who is* a beloved brother, and a faithful
minister and fellowservant in the Lord:

I Thessalonians 3:2 And sent Timotheus, our brother,
and **minister** of God, and our fellowlabourer in
the gospel of Christ, to establish you, and to comfort
you concerning your faith: I Timothy 4:6 If thou put
the brethren in remembrance of these things, thou
shalt be a good **minister** of Jesus Christ,
nourished up in the words of faith and of good
doctrine, whereunto thou hast attained.

- a. A servant in the Lord's service
- b. Serving faithfully
- c. Serving God by serving others
- d. We are good servants if we use what God has given
us

13. Greeted as servants, deacons **Philippians 1:1** Paul and
Timotheus, the **servants** of Jesus Christ, to all
the saints in Christ Jesus which are at Philippi, with
the bishops and **deacons:**

- a. Both are His servants
- b. Never should we get an attitude that we are anything more

2. A deacon is to be grave **I Timothy 3:8** **Likewise** *must*
the deacons *be* **grave**, not **doubletongued**, not
given to much wine, not greedy of filthy lucre;

- a. The word grave means to be considered serious
 - i. It is the idea of being worthy of respect, honor, dignified, serious
 - ii. It is honorable, above reproach, holy
- b. Some questions for each of us to consider
 - i. Are you serious about the things of God
 - ii. Do those you serve with believe you to be serious about the things of God

iii. Have you gained the respect of the believers you serve with

3. A deacon must not be double tongued [1 Timothy 3:8](#)

Likewise *must the deacons be* **grave,** not **doubletongued,** not **given to much wine,** not greedy of filthy lucre;

a. A deacon can't insincere, says two different things

i. A deacons can't speak in half truths

ii. We use the term two faced

iii. They are to say what they mean and mean what they say

iv. They can't say one thing to your face and another behind your back

v. His yea must mean yea and his no mean no

vi. Being who you say you are is a reflection of Christ in us

vii. We are not to flatter

viii. Deacons are problem solvers not problems or problem causers

b. Questions to ask yourself

i. Are you known for keeping your word

- ii. Do you speak consistently to different people
- iii. Do you speak the truth in love
- iv. Would people consider you to be honest and fair with both parties
- v. Are you reliable

4. A deacon can't be given to much wine [I Timothy 3:8](#)

Likewise *must* the deacons *be* **grave,** not **doubletongued,** not **given to much wine,** not greedy of filthy lucre;

- a. Not given to much wine would mean not to be controlled by alcohol
 - i. The idea of not given is to be alert to what wine does
 - ii. It is to be careful
 - iii. It is to pay close attention
- b. Do you pay attention to sin and vices so as not to allow them a stronghold in your life
 - i. How can you help others if you are victim yourself
 - ii. How can you teach others victory if you do not have victory

iii. Get the Bible attitude about alcohol

5. A deacon is not to be greedy of filthy lucre [I Timothy 3:8](#)

Likewise *must* the deacons *be* **grave**, not **doubletongued**, not **given to much wine**, not **greedy of filthy lucre**;

a. This word means not shamelessly greedy for money, not fond of dishonest gain

i. Money is often referred to negatively in the Bible

[Luke 16:11](#) If therefore ye have **not been faithful** in the **unrighteous mammon**, who will **commit to your trust** the true *riches*?

[12](#) And if ye have not been faithful in that which is another man's, who shall give you that which is your own?

ii. Desires can lead you into temptations and a snare

[I Timothy 6:9](#) But they that **will be rich** fall into **temptation** and a **snare**, and *into* many

foolish and hurtful lusts, which **drown men in destruction and perdition.**

iii. Love of money is the root of all evil [I Timothy 6:10](#) For the **love of money** is the **root of all evil:**

which while some **coveted after,** they have **erred from the faith,** and **pierced themselves** through with **many sorrows.**

[11](#) But thou, **O man of God, flee these things;** and **follow after** righteousness, godliness, faith, love, patience, meekness.

iv. It can cause you to err from the faith [I Timothy 6:10](#)

For the **love of money** is the **root of all evil:** which while some **coveted after,** they have **erred from the faith,** and **pierced themselves** through with **many sorrows.**

v. Life is more than money and things [Luke 12:16](#) And he spake a parable unto them, saying, The ground of a

certain rich man brought forth plentifully: ¹⁷

And he thought within himself, saying, What shall I do, because I have no room where to bestow my fruits? ¹⁸

And he said, This will I do: **I will pull down my barns, and build greater;** and there will I bestow all my fruits and my goods. ¹⁹ And I will say to my soul, Soul, thou hast much goods laid up for many years; **take thine ease, eat, drink, and be merry.** ²⁰ But God said unto him, *Thou* fool, this night thy soul shall be required of thee: then **whose shall those things be, which thou hast provided?** ²¹ So *is* he that layeth up treasure for himself, and is not rich toward God.

vi. Heart follows money [Matthew 6:21](#) For where your treasure is, **there will your heart be also.**

vii. You can never get enough **Ecclesiastes 5:10** He that **loveth silver** shall **not be satisfied with silver;** nor he that **loveth abundance** with increase: this *is* **also vanity.** **11** When **goods increase, they are increased that eat them:** and what good *is there* to the owners thereof, saving the beholding *of them* with their eyes? **12** The sleep of a labouring man *is* sweet, whether he eat little or much: but the **abundance of the rich will not suffer him to sleep.**

b. Questions to ask yourself

- i. Do you live denying self or in greed in regards to finances
- ii. Do you exhibit godly generosity
- iii. Do you encourage others to be generous or motivate others to be concerned for self
- iv. Do you have a pastoral heart for others, our success can make us judgmental

- v. Are you honest in your financial dealings
- vi. Do you show a love towards money or view money as a tool to serve God
- vii. Have you learned to find your satisfaction in God and not in things

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Serving The Lord and His People

I Timothy 3:8 Likewise must the deacons be grave, not doubletongued, not given to much wine, not greedy of filthy lucre; 9 Holding the mystery of the faith in a pure conscience. 10 And let these also first be proved; then let them use the office of a deacon, being found blameless. 11 Even so must their wives be grave, not slanderers, sober, faithful in all things. 12 Let the deacons be the husbands of one wife, ruling their children and their own houses well. 13 For they that have used the office of a deacon well purchase to themselves a good degree, and great boldness in the faith which is in Christ Jesus.

1. The biblical word servant and the word deacon

- a. The word deacon means servant I Timothy 3:8 Likewise must the **deacons** be grave, not doubletongued, not given to much wine, not greedy of filthy lucre; 12 Let the **deacons** be the husbands of one wife, ruling their children and their own houses well.
- b. The Bible uses several words to describe a servant.

- i. Servant [Matthew 22:13](#) Then said the king to the **servants**, Bind him hand and foot, and take him away, and cast him into outer darkness; there shall be weeping and gnashing of teeth.
- ii. Used speaking of Jesus [Romans 15:8](#) Now I say that Jesus Christ was a **minister** of the circumcision for the truth of God, to confirm the promises made unto the fathers: [9](#) And that the Gentiles might glorify God for his mercy; as it is written, For this cause I will confess to thee among the Gentiles, and sing unto thy name.
- iii. Minister or actually the same word as deacon [Ephesians 3:7](#) Whereof I was made a **minister**, according to the gift of the grace of God given unto me by the effectual working of his power.
- iv. Deacon or helper [I Timothy 3:8](#) Likewise must the **deacons** be grave, not doubletongued, not given to much wine, not greedy of filthy lucre; [12](#) Let the **deacons** be the husbands of one wife, ruling their children and their own houses well.

- c. The seven are not called deacons but they do the same service **Acts 6:1** And in those days, when the number of the disciples was multiplied, there arose a murmuring of the Grecians against the Hebrews, because their widows were neglected in the daily ministration. **2** Then the twelve called the multitude of the disciples unto them, and said, **It is not reason that we should leave the word of God, and serve tables.** **3** Wherefore, brethren, look ye out among you **seven men of honest report, full of the Holy Ghost and wisdom, whom we may appoint over this business.** **4** But we will give ourselves continually to

prayer, and to the ministry of the word. ⁵ And the saying **pleased the whole multitude:** and they chose Stephen, a **man full of faith and of the Holy Ghost,** and Philip, and Prochorus, and Nicanor, and Timon, and Parmenas, and Nicolas a proselyte of Antioch: ⁶ Whom they set before the apostles: and when they had prayed, they laid their hands on them. ⁷ And **the word of God increased;** and the number of the disciples multiplied in Jerusalem greatly; and a great company of the priests were obedient to the faith.

2. Biblical principles that deal with our service

- a. The right attitude **Psalm 100:2** Serve the Lord **with gladness:** Come before his presence with singing.

b. Sincere service

- i. He has chosen his master [Matthew 6:24](#) No man can serve two masters: for either he will hate the one, and love the other; or else he will hold to the one, and despise the other. Ye cannot serve God and mammon.
- ii. And there is only one master in his life [Luke 4:8](#) And Jesus answered and said unto him, Get thee behind me, Satan: for it is written, Thou shalt worship the Lord thy God, and him only shalt thou serve.
- c. In a spirit of love [Galatians 5:13](#) For, brethren, ye have been called unto liberty; only use not liberty for an occasion to the flesh, but **by love serve one another.**
- d. As though they are serving Jesus [Ephesians 6:7](#) With good will **doing service, as to the Lord, and not to men:**
- e. Serving as God gave them the ability [I Peter 4:10](#) As every man **hath received the gift,** even so minister the same one to another, **as good**

stewards of the manifold grace of God.

- f. Should be voluntary service [I Corinthians 9:16](#) For though I preach the gospel, I have nothing to glory of: for necessity is laid upon me; yea, woe is unto me, if I preach not the gospel! [17](#) For if I **do this thing willingly, I have a reward:** but if against my will, **a dispensation of the gospel is committed unto me.**

3. What we learn about biblical deacons

- a. They have high spiritual qualifications but really nothing that every man in our church shouldn't be trying to live [I Timothy 3:8](#) Likewise must the **deacons** be grave, not doubletongued, not given to much wine, not greedy of filthy lucre; [9](#) Holding the mystery of the faith in a pure conscience. [10](#) And let these also first be proved; then let them use the office of a deacon, being found blameless. [11](#) Even so must their wives be grave,

not slanderers, sober, faithful in all things. **12** Let the deacons be the husbands of one wife, ruling their children and their own houses well. **13** For they that have used the office of a deacon well purchase to themselves a good degree, and great boldness in the faith which is in Christ Jesus.

- b. Deacons are to be proven **I Timothy 3:10** And let these also **first be proved;** then let them use the office of a deacon, being found blameless.
- c. Deacons are to use the office well **I Timothy 3:13** For they that **have used the office of a deacon well** purchase to themselves a good degree, and great boldness in the faith which is in Christ Jesus.
- d. God rewards deacons **I Timothy 3:13** For they that have used the office of a deacon well purchase to themselves **a good degree, and great boldness in the faith** which is in Christ Jesus.

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The Ministry of the Deacon

I Timothy 3:8 Likewise **must the deacons be** grave, not doubletongued, not given to much wine, not greedy of filthy lucre; 9 **Holding the mystery of the faith in a pure conscience.** 10 And let these also **first be proved;** then let them use the office of a deacon, **being found blameless.** 11 Even so **must their wives** be grave, not slanderers, sober, faithful in all things. 12 Let the deacons be the husbands of one wife, **ruling their children and their own houses well.** 13 For they that have **used the office of a deacon well** purchase to themselves a **good degree,** and **great boldness in the faith** which is in Christ Jesus. 14 These things write I unto thee, hoping to come unto thee shortly: 15 But if I tarry long, that thou **mayest know how thou oughtest**

to behave thyself in the house of God,
which is the church of the living God, the pillar and ground of
the truth.

1. The godly deacon serves as an **example** to the **flock**, as a
layman, one of the flock **I Timothy 3:10** And let these also
first be proved; then let them use the office of a
deacon, being *found* blameless.

a. He is an example because of his **faithfulness** to God,
God's people, holiness, truth, and the church of the Lord
Jesus Christ **Acts 6:3** Wherefore, brethren, look ye out
among you seven men of **honest report, full of**
the Holy Ghost and wisdom, whom we
may appoint over this business.

b. He is an example in how he leads his **family**, gets them
to the truth, leads them in obeying God, has a faithful
family just like him **I Timothy 3:11** Even so *must* **their**
wives *be* grave, not slanderers, sober, faithful in all
things. **12** Let the deacons be the husbands of one wife,

ruling their children and their own houses well.

- c. He is an example in his **fervor** for the Lord, that means hating sin, loving God, loving the Bible [Colossians 3:23](#)

And whatsoever ye do, do *it* heartily, **as to the Lord, and not unto men;** [24](#) Knowing that **of the Lord ye shall receive the reward** of the inheritance: for **ye serve the Lord Christ.**

2. The godly deacon is an **encouragement** to the **faithful** [Acts 6:5](#) And the saying **pleased the whole multitude:** and they chose Stephen, **a man full of faith** and **of the Holy Ghost,** and Philip, and Prochorus, and Nicanor, and Timon, and Parmenas, and Nicolas a proselyte of Antioch:

- a. **Encouraging** the **pastor** [Acts 6:2](#) Then the twelve called the multitude of the disciples *unto them*, and said, **It is not reason that we should leave the**

word of God, and serve tables. Acts 6:4

But **we will give ourselves continually to prayer, and to the ministry of the word.**

b. **Encouraging** those in the **pew** Acts 6:1 And in those days, when the number of the disciples was multiplied, there arose a **murmuring of the Grecians** against the Hebrews, because their **widows were neglected** in the daily ministration.

c. **Encouraging** other **preachers**, missionaries, pastors
III John 5 Beloved, thou **doest faithfully whatsoever thou doest to the brethren, and to strangers;** 6 which have borne **witness of thy charity** before the church: whom if thou **bring forward on their journey after a godly sort,** thou shalt do well: 7 because that **for his name's sake** they

went forth, taking nothing of the Gentiles. ⁸ We therefore ought to receive such, that **we might be fellowhelpers to the truth.**

3. The godly deacon is an **equipper** of the **fold** Acts 6:7 And the **word of God increased;** and the number of the **disciples multiplied** in Jerusalem **greatly;** and a great company of the priests were obedient to the faith.
 - a. He helps **provide** the **tools** needed for the work Acts 6:3 Wherefore, brethren, look ye out among you seven men of honest report, full of the Holy Ghost and wisdom, whom we may **appoint over this business.**
 - b. He helps **prepare** others for **teaching** Acts 6:4 But **we will give** ourselves continually to prayer, and to the ministry of the word.
 - c. He **permits** the **transitions** needed in ministry Acts 6:8 And **Stephen,** full of faith and power, **did great** wonders and miracles among the people. Acts 8:5 Then

Philip went down to the city of Samaria, and **preached** Christ unto them. 6 And the people with one accord gave heed unto those things which **Philip spake**, hearing and seeing the miracles which he did.

4. The godly deacon is an **evangelist** of the **faith**

I Timothy 3:13 For they that have used the office of a deacon well purchase to themselves a good degree, and **great boldness in the faith which is in Christ Jesus.**

a. He **invites** the **lost** to church services II Timothy 1:8 **Be not thou therefore ashamed of the testimony of our Lord**, nor of me his prisoner: but be thou partaker of the afflictions of the gospel according to the power of God;

b. He **invokes** the **Lord** of heaven to save [Matthew 9:38](#)

Pray ye therefore the Lord of the harvest, that he will
send forth labourers into his harvest.

c. He **instructs** the **lost** [I Timothy 3:9](#) **Holding the
mystery of the faith in a pure
conscience.**

5. The godly deacon **edifies** the **family** of God

[Ephesians 4:16](#) From whom the whole body **fitly
joined together and compacted by that
which every joint supplieth,** according to the
effectual working in the measure of **every
part,** maketh **increase of the body** unto the
edifying of itself in love.

a. He **shows grace** not rulership [Ephesians 4:29](#) Let no
corrupt communication proceed out of your mouth, but
that which is good to the use of

edifying, that it may minister grace unto the hearers.

b. He **sows** the seeds of **growth** I Thessalonians 5:11

Wherefore **comfort** yourselves together, and **edify one another,** even as also ye do. Hebrews 10:24

And let us consider one another to **provoke unto love and to good works:** 25 Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as the manner of some *is*; but **exhorting one another: and so much the more, as ye see the day approaching.**

c. He **seeks godliness** I Timothy 6:3 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;**

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Living in Unity

Psalm 133:1 Behold, **how good and how pleasant**
it is For **brethren to dwell together in unity!**

1. Scripture truth to work with from the “one anothers!”
 - a. Wash each other’s feet, serve one another John 13:14 If I then, your Lord and Master, have washed your feet; ye also ought to **wash one another’s feet.** 15 For I have given you **an example,** that ye should do as I have done to you.
 - b. Prove you are His by how you love each other as commanded and shown John 13:34 A new commandment I give unto you, That ye **love one another; as I have loved you,** that ye also love one another. 35 By this **shall all men know** that ye are my disciples, if ye have love one to another.

- c. Prefer your brother or sister, put them over you
Romans 12:10 Be kindly affectioned one to another with brotherly love; in honour **preferring one another;**
- d. Judge what you are doing instead of what your brother is doing **Romans 14:13** Let us **not therefore judge one another** any more: but judge this rather, that **no man put a stumblingblock** or an occasion to fall in his brother's way.
- e. Accept your brother like Christ accepts you **Romans 15:7** Wherefore **receive ye one another, as Christ also received** us to the glory of God.
- f. Talk if there is any question, problem, or doubt
Romans 15:14 And I myself also am **persuaded of you,** my brethren, that ye also are full of goodness, filled with all knowledge, able also to **admonish one another.**

- g. Serve your brother **Galatians 5:13** For, brethren, ye have been called unto liberty; only use not liberty for an occasion to the flesh, but by **love serve one another.**
- h. Don't destroy each other **Galatians 5:15** But if ye **bite and devour one another,** take heed that ye be not consumed one of another.
- i. Don't compare yourselves, don't brag, don't challenge, don't get jealous of each other **Galatians 5:26** Let us not be **desirous of vain glory, provoking** one another, **envying one another.**
- j. Help each other **Galatians 6:2** **Bear ye one another's burdens,** and so fulfil the law of Christ.
- k. Put up with each other **Ephesians 4:2** With all lowliness and meekness, with longsuffering, **forbearing one another in love;**
- l. Be tenderhearted and forgiving with each other **Ephesians 4:32** And be ye **kind one to another,**

tenderhearted, **forgiving one another**, even as God for Christ's sake hath forgiven you. Colossians 3:13 Forbearing one another, and forgiving one another, if any man have a quarrel against any: even **as Christ forgave you, so also do ye.**

m. Use Scripture to bless each other Colossians 3:16 Let the **word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom**; teaching and admonishing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with grace in your hearts to the Lord.

n. Build each other up I Thessalonians 5:11 Wherefore comfort yourselves together, and **edify one another**, even as also ye do.

o. Think about each other and motivate to love and good works Hebrews 10:24 And let us **consider one another** to provoke unto **love and to good works**:

2. How you handle disagreements will speak loudly about you and your character, your walk with God
- a. Hatred or love [Proverbs 10:12](#) **Hatred stirreth up strifes:** But **love covereth all sins.**
 - b. Are you hot tempered [Proverbs 15:18](#) A wrathful man **stirreth up strife:** But he that is slow to anger **appeaseth strife.**
 - c. Will your love for fussing and disagreeing prove you love sin [Proverbs 17:19](#) He **loveth transgression** that **loveth strife:** And he that exalteth his gate seeketh destruction.
 - d. Are you the one He wants us to throw out [Proverbs 22:10](#) Cast out the scorner, and contention shall go out; Yea, **strife and reproach shall cease.**
 - e. Are you a gossip [Proverbs 26:20](#) Where no wood is, there the fire goeth out: So where there is **no talebearer, the strife ceaseth.** [21](#) As coals are to burning

coals, and wood to fire; So is a **contentious man to kindle strife.**

f. Do you have a pride problem [Proverbs 28:25](#) He that is of a **proud heart stirreth up strife:** But he that putteth his trust in the Lord shall be made fat.

3. Are you listening to gossip [Proverbs 16:28](#) A froward man **soweth strife:** And a **whisperer separateth** chief friends. [Proverbs 26:20](#) Where no wood is, *there* the fire goeth out: So where *there is* **no talebearer, the strife ceaseth.**

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The Stewardship of a Deacon

1. The basic Bible truth is that God owns everything

a. The earth and everything in it belong to Him

Psalm 24:1 I Corinthians 10:26 For the **earth is the Lord's**, and the fulness thereof.

b. He is the possessor and owner Genesis 14:19 And he blessed him, and said, Blessed *be* Abram of the most high **God, possessor of heaven and earth:**

c. The silver and gold is His Haggai 2:8 The silver *is mine, and the gold is mine, saith the Lord of hosts.*

d. Everything under Heaven is His Job 41:11 Who hath prevented me, that I should repay *him?*

Whatsoever is under the whole heaven is mine.

e. All the animals are His Psalm 50:10 For every beast of the forest **is mine**, And the cattle upon a thousand hills. 11 I know all the fowls of the mountains: And the

wild beasts of the field **are mine.** 12 If I were hungry, I would not tell thee: For **the world is mine, and the fulness thereof.**

- f. All souls, people, belong to Him **Ezekiel 18:4**
Behold, all souls are mine; as the soul of the father, so also the soul of the son is mine: the soul that sinneth, it shall die.
- g. Even life is owned by Him **Psalm 36:9** For **with thee is the fountain of life:** In thy light shall we see light. **Psalm 104:29** Thou hidest thy face, they are troubled: **Thou takest away their breath,** they die, And return to their dust.
- Daniel 5:23** But hast lifted up thyself against the Lord of heaven; and they have brought the vessels of his house before thee, and thou, and thy lords, thy wives, and thy concubines, have drunk wine in them; and thou hast praised the gods of silver, and gold, of brass, iron, wood, and stone, which see not, nor hear, nor know: and **the God in whose hand thy**

breath is, and whose *are* all thy ways, hast thou not glorified: [Acts 17:25](#) Neither is worshipped with men's hands, as though he needed any thing, **seeing he giveth to all life, and breath, and all things;** [26](#) And hath made of one blood all nations of men for to dwell on all the face of the earth, and **hath determined the times** before appointed, and the bounds of their habitation; [27](#) That they should seek the Lord, if haply they might feel after him, and find him, though he be not far from every one of us: [28](#) For **in him we live, and move, and have our being;** as certain also of your own poets have said, For we are also his offspring. [Job 12:10](#) **In whose hand is the soul of every living thing, And the breath of all mankind.**

- h. It all belongs to Him [I Chronicles 29:11](#) **Thine,** O Lord, *is* the greatness, and the power, and the glory,

and the victory, and the majesty: **for all that is in the heaven and in the earth is thine;** *thine is the kingdom, O Lord, and thou art exalted as head above all.* 12 Both riches and honour *come* of thee, and thou reignest over all; and in thine hand *is* power and might; and in thine hand *it is* to make great, and to give strength unto all. 13 Now therefore, our God, we thank thee, and praise thy glorious name. 14 But who *am* I, and what *is* my people, that we should be able to offer so willingly after this sort? for **all things come of thee, and of thine own have we given thee.** 15 For we *are* strangers before thee, and sojourners, as *were* all our fathers: our days on the earth *are* as a shadow, and *there is* none abiding. 16 O Lord our God, all this store that we have prepared to build thee an house for thine holy name **cometh of thine hand, and is all thine own.**

2. Adam was simply placed in charge of God's creation

Colossians 1:16 For by him were all things created, that are in heaven, and that are in earth, visible and invisible, whether *they be* thrones, or dominions, or principalities, or powers: **all things were created by him, and for him:**

a. He becomes a manager or administrator acting on God's behalf Daniel 4:25 That they shall drive thee from men, and thy dwelling shall be with the beasts of the field, and they shall make thee to eat grass as oxen, and they shall wet thee with the dew of heaven, and seven times shall pass over thee, **till thou know that the most High ruleth in the kingdom of men, and giveth it to whomsoever he will.**

b. In stewardship we commit ourselves and possessions to God's service and acknowledge that we do not have the right to control ourselves or our property

Psalms 89:11 The **heavens are thine, the**

earth also is thine: *As for the world and the fulness thereof,* **thou hast founded them.**

- c. We deceive ourselves when we think that we produced our own wealth [Deuteronomy 8:17](#) And **thou say in thine heart,** *My power and the might of mine hand hath gotten me this wealth.* [18](#) But **thou shalt remember** *the Lord thy God:* for **it is he that giveth thee power to get wealth,** *that he may establish his covenant which he sware unto thy fathers, as it is this day.*
- d. The real question is one of responsibility about how we treat God's possessions and what we do with them. Since we are not owners we have no rights. Someone tell the story of the talents.

3. As deacons and pastoral staff we must recognize that we are examples of the truth
- a. An example in our giving and service
 - b. We cannot be covetous
 - c. God not only owns our resources but our time as well so we need to live with the idea of completing His will for our lives **Hebrews 12:1** Wherefore seeing we also are compassed about with so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which doth so easily beset us, and **let us run with patience the race that is set before us,** **Ephesians 5:15** See then that ye walk circumspectly, **not as fools, but as wise,** **16 Redeeming the time,** because the days are evil.
 - d. Are you responsible before God for how you use your time? Are you using your time like God wants you to use it?

- e. Are you managing your money according to Scriptural principles? Are you worshiping God with your time and money?

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Becoming the Spiritual Leader He Wants

1. Our function as spiritual leaders here at Vision is to move people from where they are to where God wants them to be.
2. We must all depend on the Holy Spirit of God to do the work.
 - a. This speaks strongly of our relationship with God.
 - b. How is my walk?
 - i. Am I in the Scriptures?
 - ii. Am I faithful to the services?
 - iii. Am I surrendered to His will?
 - iv. Am I sensitive to Him in preaching and all other times?
 - v. Am I serving in Him faithfully?
3. Do we realize that we are accountable to God for His work and our ministry?

4. As spiritual leaders we are to be working on God's agenda, not our own.
 - a. We seek to turn people from self centeredness to Savior centered.
 - b. We want to lead people away from sinful desires to obedience.
 - c. To do this we must know God's will for our lives and His church.
 - d. This means that our relationship with our Father is the most important part of our lives.
 - e. We must do things His way and not seek shortcuts.
 - f. Our desire must be that His kingdom come, His will be done in our church and lives as it is in heaven.

5. Let's consider how God made Abraham into a great spiritual leader.
 - a. God matured Abraham in his character and his relationship with God.
 - b. God worked in Abraham's life building wisdom, integrity, honesty, and moral purity.

- c. Abraham's relationship with God develops as he learns to obey and trust God. He falls in love with God.
 - d. God used failure in Abraham's life to grow him.
 - i. Taking Lot with Him
 - ii. Hagar
 - e. God doesn't do things the way Abraham would have thought, His ways are not our ways.
 - f. Abraham keeps building spiritual landmarks in his life.
 - g. Abraham learned who his God was every time he got himself in trouble and God rescued him.
 - h. Abraham learned that God doesn't like shortcuts.
 - i. Abraham took drastic steps of obedience to demonstrate his faith.
 - j. Abraham's walk with God is an entire lifetime.
 - k. He periodically needed revival, to go back.
6. Our church will be what it should be in direct proportion to our walk with God and leadership, influence.

7. Real leadership is be level more than do. It is who we are not so much what we do.

8. Verses for consideration

- a. **Zechariah 4:6** Then he answered and spake unto me, saying, *This is the word of the Lord unto Zerubbabel, saying, **Not by might, nor by power, but by my spirit,*** Saith the Lord of hosts.
- b. **II Chronicles 16:9** For the **eyes of the Lord** run to and fro throughout the whole earth, to **shew himself strong in the behalf** *of them* whose **heart is perfect** toward him. Herein thou hast done foolishly: therefore from henceforth thou shalt have wars.
- c. **Matthew 25:23** His lord said unto him, Well done, good and faithful servant; thou hast **been faithful over a few things,** I will make thee ruler over many things: enter thou into the joy of thy lord.

d. Luke 16:10 He that is **faithful in that which is least** is faithful also in much: and he that is unjust in the least is unjust also in much.

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Church Behavior

I Timothy 3:14-16

- I. We must maintain pure doctrine—what you teach as you disciple others
 - a. We are to teach no other doctrine 1:3-4
 - b. The church is the pillar and ground of the truth 3:15
 - i. Pillar as the announcing place
 - ii. Ground as the basis
 - c. Realize that Satan wants to deceive with doctrines of devils 4:1
 - d. Avoid cultural stories 4:7
 - e. We must be centered on the Word of God 4:13-16
 - i. Reading, exhortation, doctrine, meditation,
 - ii. Search the Scriptures daily Acts 17:11
- II. We must choose leadership correctly—how you lead and prepare others to lead
 - a. They must prove themselves first 3:6, 10
 - b. They must be leaders in their home 3:4, 11-12
 - c. Must be of good report from outsiders 3:7
 - d. Able and desirous of teaching the Word of God 3:2

- III. We must keep a good testimony—how you make sure your life affects the ones you teach or train
 - a. We are to be an example to other believers 4:12
 - b. We must realize that Satan is looking for a way to embarrass the cause of Christ 5:14
 - c. Employees should realize that nonbelievers want to make light of the teachings of the Word of God due to our attitude and actions as believers in the work place 6:1
- IV. We must have the right goal—as you lead others you never forget your goal
 - a. God wants all men to be saved 2:4
 - b. The gospel has been committed to our trust 1:11
 - c. Salvation for sinners was the reason Jesus came to the earth 1:15
 - d. World evangelism is the reason Paul was a preacher 2:7

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The Mystery of Godliness

I Timothy 3:16

- I. Jesus Christ is God was manifest in the flesh
 - a. He was in the beginning and later took on human flesh
John 1:1-3, 14
 - b. From equal to God to the likeness of man Philippians
2:6-8
 - c. All the Godhead dwelt in Him Colossians 2:9
- II. Justified or vindicated in the Spirit.
 - a. The Holy Spirit raised Him up which proves His
message Romans 8:11
 - b. God raised Him from the dead which confirms who He
was Acts 2:24
 - c. God gives total approval through His resurrection and
ascension Ephesians 1:20
- III. Seen of angels
 - a. At his birth Luke 2:15
 - b. At the temptation Mark 1:13
 - c. Angels ready to come at the crucifixion Matthew 26:53

- d. At the tomb John 20:12
- e. At the ascension Acts 1:10
- f. He will come again in glory with His angels Matthew 25:31

IV. Preached unto the gentiles

- a. It was prophesied that all the nations would hear and be his Psalms 2:8, 22:27
- b. Announced at his birth Luke 2:32
- c. God gave Paul a special ministry to take the gospel to the gentiles Acts 13:47

V. Believed on in the world?

- a. Gentiles began to believe Acts 14:27
- b. People everywhere began to accept the good news Colossians 1:6, 23
- c. Multitudes from all nations will be in Heaven Revelation 7:9

VI. Received up into glory

- a. God authorized him to lay down his life and take it again John 10:18

b.He came from the father and returned to the Father

John 16:28

c. Stephen saw Him at the right hand of the Father

Acts 7:55

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Being a Good Servant of Jesus Christ

I Timothy 4:1-10

I. False Teachers 4:1-3

- a. Listen to the wrong spirit—so it must mean that there is more than just one spirit who would try to teach you “truth” or what to believe I John 4:1
- b. These teachers become unconcerned about what the Bible teaches—seared conscience—they know what the Bible says but come up with a way to negate it Romans 1:28, Ephesians 4:19
- c. Some of their prophesied teachings
 - i. Forbidding to marry – Paul told Timothy basically one man, one woman, one lifetime
 - ii. Abstain from meats Colossians 2:20-23
- d. Other false teachings that are becoming acceptable
 - i. Signs and wonders prove the validity of a ministry Matthew 24:24, Revelation 13:14
 - ii. Serving or giving to God will make you rich Matthew 6:24, I Timothy 6:17-19

II. Good Ministers of Jesus Christ

- a. Remind the brethren about false doctrine 4:6
- b. Feed or nourish yourself on the words of faith
Colossians 3:16
- c. Train believers to use the Scripture test Acts 17:11

III. How to stay on track

- a. Make right choices—choose right doctrine based on the Word of God as your only rule of faith and practice—refuse man's wisdom or opinion
- b. Exercise yourself to personal godliness
- c. Labor to get the gospel to the lost—work for the right goal will keep you from getting sidetracked into intellectual pride

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The Secret to Christian Leadership

I Timothy 4:11-16

- I. Live what you teach
 - a. It is more caught than taught I Corinthians 11:1
 - b. Do you use edifying or constructive words Ephesians 4:29
 - c. Are you the example of what you want other believers to be
 - d. Do you express love to others especially the hurting
 - e. Can they see your faith and its result
 - f. If they follow your example will purity be the result
 - g. Remember you are their excuse for what they do
- II. Be busy in spiritual things
 - a. Be faithful in your Bible reading—systematic, disciplined, diligent Joshua 1:8, Psalms 119:97-104
 - b. Use what you learn to make a difference in the lives of others—nothing that you learn is for you I Corinthians 8:1
 - c. Learn truth and teach truth not opinion
- III. Put your gift to work Luke 19:12-26

- a. Each of us were given a gift or tool or ability to serve God with Romans 12:6-8
 - b. Your goal is to develop the abilities that you have for His service I Corinthians 15:10
 - c. Begin exercising your gift in service of others and God, the example of Philip the deacon
- IV. Be consumed with the Word and the work of God
- a. The Word of God should occupy your thought processes Acts 26:22
 - b. First application is to your life and not for others
 - c. Learn truth and apply it to your life
 - d. God will give you a ministry that changes other people's lives

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Ordination or the Laying on of Hands

I Timothy 4:14 Neglect not the gift that is in thee, which was given thee by prophecy, with the laying on of the hands of the presbytery.

1. In the laying on of hands we seek to recognize what God has already done in his life I Timothy 2:7 Whereunto I am ordained a preacher, and an apostle, (I speak the truth in Christ, *and* lie not;) a teacher of the Gentiles in faith and verity.
 - a. It is God who calls, appoints, chooses, gifts His man to do the work
 - b. All we can do is look at Him, His life and see if we see God using him and if he meets the Scriptural qualifications
 - c. He has given testimony that God has called him
 - d. We have seen evidence of God's work in his life and that God has given fruit

2. We are unable to impart any special gifting since we are not apostles
 - a. We do pray that God will use him
 - b. We have shared advice and encouragement with him this afternoon
 - c. We are able to preach and encourage our brother through the Scriptures
 - d. We do not enter this service lightly! He has been examined, not this afternoon but for years. I have worked with him. I have seen him grow. I have seen God use him. **I Timothy 5:22 Lay hands suddenly on no man, neither be partaker of other men's sins: keep thyself pure.**
3. We commend you to the Lord for Him to do a work in and through you **Acts 14:23 And when they had ordained them elders in every church, and had prayed with fasting, they commended them to the Lord, on whom they believed.**
 - a. You belong to the Lord, He saved you, He has placed you in the ministry
 - b. We simply believe your testimony that He has called you and placed you in the ministry

- c. Tonight very publicly we want you to know that you are to trust the One that you have believed every day wherever He places you to work
- d. We trust God to use you

4. Challenge

- a. I can say nothing new to you tonight that you do not already know or have heard me say
- b. I challenge you to love God above all else-seek Him, honor Him, lift Him high every where you go
- c. I challenge you to love the Word of God and to immerse yourself in it all the time. Learn it, study it, preach it, pray it
- d. I challenge you to be sensitive to the Holy Spirit that He will direct and guide your every step in accordance with His Word
- e. I challenge you to love your wife and to honor her all the days of your life
- f. I challenge you to love the church, God's congregation He brings together to worship Him, seek Him, learn His Word
- g. I challenge you to never lose sight of the One that has done so much for you

h. Don't get caught up in petty things, keep your eyes on Him and He will do the work!

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Leadership Rules

I Timothy 5:1 Rebuke not an elder, but intreat *him* as a father; *and* the younger men as brethren; 2 The elder women as mothers; the younger as sisters, with all purity. 3 Honour widows that are widows indeed. 4 But if any widow have children or nephews, let them learn first to shew piety at home, and to requite their parents: for that is good and acceptable before God. 5 Now she that is a widow indeed, and desolate, trusteth in God, and continueth in supplications and prayers night and day. 6 But she that liveth in pleasure is dead while she liveth. 7 And these things give in charge, that they may be blameless. 8 But if any provide not for his own, and specially for those of his own house, he hath denied the faith, and is worse than an infidel. 9 Let not a widow be taken into the number under threescore years old, having been the wife of one man, 10 Well reported of for good works; if she have brought up children, if she have lodged strangers, if she have washed the saints' feet, if she have relieved the afflicted, if she have diligently followed every good work. 11 But the younger widows refuse: for when they have begun to wax wanton

against Christ, they will marry; 12 Having damnation, because they have cast off their first faith. 13 And withal they learn to be idle, wandering about from house to house; and not only idle, but tattlers also and busybodies, speaking things which they ought not. 14 I will therefore that the younger women marry, bear children, guide the house, give none occasion to the adversary to speak reproachfully. 15 For some are already turned aside after Satan. 16 If any man or woman that believeth have widows, let them relieve them, and let not the church be charged; that it may relieve them that are widows indeed. 17 Let the elders that rule well be counted worthy of double honour, especially they who labour in the word and doctrine. 18 For the scripture saith, Thou shalt not muzzle the ox that treadeth out the corn. And, The labourer is worthy of his reward. 19 Against an elder receive not an accusation, but before two or three witnesses. 20 Them that sin rebuke before all, that others also may fear. 21 I charge thee before God, and the Lord Jesus Christ, and the elect angels, that thou observe these things without preferring one before another, doing nothing by partiality. 22 Lay hands suddenly on no man, neither be partaker of other men's sins: keep thyself pure. 23 Drink no longer water, but use a little wine for thy stomach's

sake and thine often infirmities. 24 Some men's sins are open beforehand, going before to judgment; and some *men* they follow after. 25 Likewise also the good works *of some* are manifest beforehand; and they that are otherwise cannot be hid.

1. Respect for the Family I Timothy 5:1 Rebuke not an elder, but intreat *him* as a father; *and* the younger men as brethren; 2 The elder women as mothers; the younger as sisters, with all purity. 3 Honour widows that are widows indeed.
 - a. Treat them as fathers or brothers I Timothy 5:1 Rebuke not an elder, but intreat *him* as a father; *and* the younger men as brethren;
 - b. Treat them as mothers or sisters I Timothy 2 The elder women as mothers; the younger as sisters, with all purity.
 - i. With all purity I Timothy 5:2
 - ii. Be careful even of appearances I Thessalonians 5:22 Abstain from all appearance of evil.

- iii. Flee temptation [II Timothy 2:22](#) Flee also youthful lusts: but follow righteousness, faith, charity, peace, with them that call on the Lord out of a pure heart.
- c. Honor widows indeed [I Timothy 5:3](#) Honour widows that are widows indeed.
 - i. No family help [I Timothy 5:4](#) But if any widow have children or nephews, let them learn first to shew piety at home, and to requite their parents: for that is good and acceptable before God.
 - ii. Has a prayer and trusting ministry [I Timothy 5:5](#) Now she that is a widow indeed, and desolate, trusteth in God, and continueth in supplications and prayers night and day.
- 2. Respect for leaders in the church [I Timothy 5:17](#) Let the elders that rule well be counted worthy of double honour, especially they who labour in the word and doctrine. [18](#) For the scripture saith, Thou shalt not muzzle the ox that treadeth out the corn. And, The labourer is worthy of his reward. [19](#) Against an elder receive not an accusation, but before two or three witnesses. [20](#) Them that sin rebuke before all, that others also may fear. [21](#) I charge thee

before God, and the Lord Jesus Christ, and the elect angels, that thou observe these things without preferring one before another, doing nothing by partiality. 22 Lay hands suddenly on no man, neither be partaker of other men's sins: keep thyself pure.

- a. Take care of him financially I Timothy 5:17 Let the elders that rule well be counted worthy of double honour, especially they who labour in the word and doctrine. 18 For the scripture saith, Thou shalt not muzzle the ox that treadeth out the corn. And, The labourer is worthy of his reward.
- b. Don't listen to accusations incorrectly I Timothy 5:19 Against an elder receive not an accusation, but before two or three witnesses.
 - i. Two witnesses have always been required Deuteronomy 19:15 One witness shall not rise up against a man for any iniquity, or for any sin, in any sin that he sinneth: at the mouth of two witnesses, or at the mouth of three witnesses, shall the matter be established.
 - ii. Jesus confirmed that John 8:17 It is also written in your law, that the testimony of two men is true.

- c. Rebuke before all that others may fear **I Timothy 5:20**
Them that sin rebuke before all, that others also may fear.
Proverbs 27:5 Open rebuke *is* better than secret love.
28:23 He that rebuketh a man afterwards shall find more favour Than he that flattereth with the tongue.
- d. Be careful who gets to lead **I Timothy 5:22** Lay hands suddenly on no man, neither be partaker of other men's sins: keep thyself pure.

3. Respect for other believers

- a. Don't listen to accusations incorrectly
 - i. Remember to love your brother; love thinks no evil, does not rejoice in iniquity, believes and hopes all things **I Corinthians 13:4** Charity suffereth long, *and* is kind; charity envieth not; charity vaunteth not itself, is not puffed up, **5** Doth not behave itself unseemly, seeketh not her own, is not easily provoked, thinketh no evil; **6** Rejoiceth not in iniquity, but rejoiceth in the truth; **7** Beareth all things, believeth all things, hopeth all things, endureth all things. **8** Charity never faileth: but whether *there be* prophecies, they shall fail;

whether *there be* tongues, they shall cease; whether *there be* knowledge, it shall vanish away.

ii. Love covers a multitude of sin **I Peter 4:8** And above all things have fervent charity among yourselves: for charity shall cover the multitude of sins.

iii. Love's response **Proverbs 10:12** Hatred stirreth up strifes: But love covereth all sins.

b. Prefer one another **I Timothy 5:21** I charge *thee* before God, and the Lord Jesus Christ, and the elect angels, that thou observe these things without preferring one before another, doing nothing by partiality. **Romans 12:10** Be kindly affectioned one to another with brotherly love; in honour preferring one another; **Philippians 2:3** Let nothing *be done* through strife or vainglory; but in lowliness of mind let each esteem other better than themselves.

c. Do not show partiality **I Timothy 5:21** I charge *thee* before God, and the Lord Jesus Christ, and the elect angels, that thou observe these things without preferring one before another, doing nothing by partiality. **James 2:1** My brethren, have not the faith of our Lord Jesus Christ, *the Lord* of glory, with respect of persons. **2** For if there

come unto your assembly a man with a gold ring, in goodly apparel, and there come in also a poor man in vile raiment; 3 And ye have respect to him that weareth the gay clothing, and say unto him, Sit thou here in a good place; and say to the poor, Stand thou there, or sit here under my footstool: 4 Are ye not then partial in yourselves, and are become judges of evil thoughts?

Favoritism?

- d. Separate yourself from sin I Timothy 5:21 I charge *thee* before God, and the Lord Jesus Christ, and the elect angels, that thou observe these things without preferring one before another, doing nothing by partiality.
Ephesians 5:11 And have no fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness, but rather reprove *them*.

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Characteristics of the Godly Woman

I Timothy 5:5 Now she that is a widow indeed, and desolate, trusteth in God, and continueth in supplications and prayers night and day. 6 But she that liveth in pleasure is dead while she liveth. 7 And these things give in charge, that they may be blameless. 8 But if any provide not for his own, and specially for those of his own house, he hath denied the faith, and is worse than an infidel. 9 Let not a widow be taken into the number under threescore years old, having been the wife of one man, 10 Well reported of for good works; if she have brought up children, if she have lodged strangers, if she have washed the saints' feet, if she have relieved the afflicted, if she have diligently followed every good work. 11 But the younger widows refuse: for when they have begun to wax wanton against Christ, they will marry; 12 Having damnation, because they have cast off their first faith. 13 And withal they learn to be idle, wandering about from house to house; and not only idle, but tattlers also and busybodies, speaking things which they ought not. 14 I will therefore that the younger women marry, bear children, guide the house, give none occasion to

the adversary to speak reproachfully. 15 For some are already turned aside after Satan. 16 If any man or woman that believeth have widows, let them relieve them, and let not the church be charged; that it may relieve them that are widows indeed.

1. Woman of faith I Timothy 5:5 Now she that is a widow indeed, and desolate, trusteth in God, and continueth in supplications and prayers night and day.
 - a. Desolate or alone, bereaved, isolated. I Timothy 5:5 Now she that is a widow indeed, and desolate, trusteth in God, and continueth in supplications and prayers night and day.
 - b. She has no one to care for her at home I Timothy 5:4 But if any widow have children or nephews, let them learn first to shew piety at home, and to requite their parents: for that is good and acceptable before God.
 - i. No where to look but the Lord I Corinthians 7:32 But if any widow have children or nephews, let them learn first to shew piety at home, and to requite their parents: for that is good and acceptable before God.

ii. A long standing testimony of her faith and love to the Lord **I Timothy 5:9** Let not a widow be taken into the number under threescore years old, having been the wife of one man,

2. Woman of prayer **I Timothy 5:5** Now she that is a widow indeed, and desolate, trusteth in God, and continueth in supplications and prayers night and day.

a. Testimony of a widow woman in prayer **Luke 18:1** And he spake a parable unto them *to this end*, that men ought always to pray, and not to faint; **2** Saying, There was in a city a judge, which feared not God, neither regarded man: **3** And there was a widow in that city; and she came unto him, saying, Avenge me of mine adversary. **4** And he would not for a while: but afterward he said within himself, Though I fear not God, nor regard man; **5** Yet because this widow troubleth me, I will avenge her, lest by her continual coming she weary me. **6** And the Lord said, Hear what the unjust judge saith. **7** And shall not God avenge his own elect, which cry day and night unto him, though he bear long with them?

- b. An example of this woman [Luke 2:37](#) And she *was* a widow of about fourscore and four years, which departed not from the temple, but served *God* with fastings and prayers night and day.
- 3. Woman of good works [I Timothy 5:10](#) Well reported of for good works; if she have brought up children, if she have lodged strangers, if she have washed the saints' feet, if she have relieved the afflicted, if she have **diligently followed every good work.** diligently following
 - a. Raised children [II Timothy 1:5](#) When I call to remembrance the unfeigned faith that is in thee, which dwelt first in thy grandmother Lois, and thy mother Eunice; and I am persuaded that in thee also.
[II Timothy 3:15](#) And that from a child thou hast known the holy scriptures, which are able to make thee wise unto salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus.
 - b. Lodged strangers [I Peter 4:9](#) Use hospitality one to another without grudging.
 - c. Cared for the saints [Galatians 6:10](#) As we have therefore opportunity, let us do good unto all *men*, especially unto them who are of the household of faith. [I John 3:16](#)

Hereby perceive we the love of *God*, because he laid down his life for us: and we ought to lay down *our* lives for the brethren. 17 But whoso hath this world's good, and seeth his brother have need, and shutteth up his bowels of *compassion* from him, how dwelleth the love of God in him? 18 My little children, let us not love in word, neither in tongue; but in deed and in truth.

d. Relieved the afflicted 2 Corinthians 1:4 Who comforteth us in all our tribulation, that we may be able to comfort them which are in any trouble, by the comfort wherewith we ourselves are comforted of God. Psalms 142:4 I looked on *my* right hand, and beheld, But *there was* no man that would know me: Refuge failed me; No man cared for my soul.

4. Dedicated to God I Timothy 5:11 But the younger widows refuse: for when they have begun to wax wanton against Christ, they will marry; 12 Having damnation, because they have cast off their first faith. 13 And withal they learn *to be* idle, wandering about from house to house; and not only idle, but tattlers also and busybodies, speaking things which they ought not. 14 I will therefore that the younger

women marry, bear children, guide the house, give none occasion to the adversary to speak reproachfully. 15 For some are already turned aside after Satan.

- a. Busy I Timothy 5:13 And withal they learn *to be* idle, wandering about from house to house; and not only idle, but tattlers also and busybodies, speaking things which they ought not. not idle Proverbs 31:27 She looketh well to the ways of her household, And eateth not the bread of idleness. II Thessalonians 3:6 Now we command you, brethren, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that ye withdraw yourselves from every brother that walketh disorderly, and not after the tradition which he received of us. 7 For yourselves know how ye ought to follow us: for we behaved not ourselves disorderly among you; 8 Neither did we eat any man's bread for nought; but wrought with labour and travail night and day, that we might not be chargeable to any of you: 9 Not because we have not power, but to make ourselves an ensample unto you to follow us. 10 For even when we were with you, this we commanded you, that if any would not work, neither should he eat. 11 For we hear that there are some which

walk among you disorderly, working not at all, but are busybodies.

- b. Tongue under control [Leviticus 19:16](#) Thou shalt not go up and down *as* a talebearer among thy people: neither shalt thou stand against the blood of thy neighbour: I *am* the Lord. [Proverbs 20:19](#) He that goeth about *as* a talebearer revealeth secrets: Therefore meddle not with him that flattereth with his lips.
- c. Spiritually careful [I Peter 4:14](#) If ye be reproached for the name of Christ, happy *are ye*; for the spirit of glory and of God resteth upon you: on their part he is evil spoken of, but on your part he is glorified. [15](#) But let none of you suffer as a murderer, or *as* a thief, or *as* an evildoer, or as a busybody in other men's matters.
- d. Guiding her house [Titus 2:5](#) *To be* discreet, chaste, keepers at home, good, obedient to their own husbands, that the word of God be not blasphemed.

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Personal Responsibility

I Timothy 5:8 But if any provide not for his own, and specially for those of his own house, he hath denied the faith, and is worse than an infidel.

1. Requite their parents 5:4 But if any widow have children or nephews, let them learn first to shew piety at home, and to requite their parents: for that is good and acceptable before God.
 - a. Show how spiritual you are at home first
 - b. Requite is to reward or pay back your parents—take care of them in their old age
 - c. Religious people in Jesus day tried to avoid fulfilling their responsibility to their parents Matthew 15:4 For God commanded, saying, Honour thy father and mother: and, He that curseth father or mother, let him die the death. 5 But ye say, Whosoever shall say to *his* father or *his* mother, *It is* a gift, by whatsoever thou mightest be profited by me; 6 And honour not his father or his

mother, *he shall be free*. Thus have ye made the commandment of God of none effect by your tradition.

Mark 7:11 But ye say, If a man shall say to his father or mother, *It is Corban*, that is to say, a gift, by whatsoever thou mightest be profited by me; *he shall be free*. 12 And ye suffer him no more to do ought for his father or his mother; 13 Making the word of God of none effect through your tradition, which ye have delivered: and many such like things do ye.

d. Honor means more than just obey Ephesians 6:1

Children, obey your parents in the Lord: for this is right. 2 Honour thy father and mother; (which is the first commandment with promise;) 3 That it may be well with thee, and thou mayest live long on the earth.

e. David's example I Samuel 22:3 And David went thence to Mizpeh of Moab: and he said unto the king of Moab, Let my father and my mother, I pray thee, come forth, *and be with you*, till I know what God will do for me. 4 And he brought them before the king of Moab: and they dwelt with him all the while that David was in the hold.

2. Provide for your own **5:8** But if any provide not for his own, and specially for those of his own house, he hath denied the faith, and is worse than an infidel.
 - a. Take care of your children **II Corinthians 12:14** Behold, the third time I am ready to come to you; and I will not be burdensome to you: for I seek not yours, but you: for the children ought not to lay up for the parents, but the parents for the children.
 - b. Leave an inheritance for your children **Proverbs 13:22** A good *man* leaveth an inheritance to his children's children: And the wealth of the sinner *is* laid up for the just.
 - c. Houses and riches **Proverbs 19:14** House and riches *are* the inheritance of fathers: And a prudent wife *is* from the Lord.
 - d. Spiritual training is also what you should provide **I Thessalonians 2:11** As ye know how we exhorted and comforted and charged every one of you, as a father *doth* his children,
 - e. Take care of your parents when they are unable to care for themselves

3. Give no occasion to the adversary to speak reproachfully

5:14 I will therefore that the younger women marry, bear children, guide the house, give none occasion to the adversary to speak reproachfully.

a. We must build strong families so that people can see the difference Jesus makes in our lives. Proverbs 14:1 Every wise woman buildeth her house: But the foolish plucketh it down with her hands. 31:27 She looketh well to the ways of her household, And eateth not the bread of idleness. 28 Her children arise up, and call her blessed; Her husband *also*, and he praiseth her. 29 Many daughters have done virtuously, But thou excellest them all. Titus 2:5 To be discreet, chaste, keepers at home, good, obedient to their own husbands, that the word of God be not blasphemed.

b. We must take care of our parents and our responsibilities Romans 14:13 Let us not therefore judge one another any more: but judge this rather, that no man put a stumblingblock or an occasion to fall in *his* brother's way.

c. They are looking for a reason to mock the Lord Jesus Christ and the things we teach from the Bible

II Samuel 12:14 Howbeit, because by this deed thou hast

given great occasion to the enemies of the Lord to blaspheme, the child also *that is* born unto thee shall surely die.

d. Be careful in your relationship with your spouse

Hebrews 13:4 Marriage *is* honourable in all, and the bed undefiled: but whoremongers and adulterers God will judge.

e. Let us live above reproach **Daniel 6:4** Then the presidents and princes sought to find occasion against Daniel concerning the kingdom; but they could find none occasion nor fault; forasmuch as he *was* faithful, neither was there any error or fault found in him.

4. Ideas for Widow Care

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Choosing Leaders

I Timothy 5:17 Let the elders that rule well be counted worthy of double honour, especially they who labour in the word and doctrine. 18 For the scripture saith, thou shalt not muzzle the ox that treadeth out the corn. And, The labourer is worthy of his reward 19 Against an elder receive not an accusation, but before two or three witnesses. 20 Them that sin rebuke before all, that others also may fear. 21 I charge thee before God, and the Lord Jesus Christ, and the elect angels, that thou observe these things without preferring one before another, doing nothing by partiality. 22 Lay hands suddenly on no man, neither be partaker of other men's sins: keep thyself pure. 23 Drink no longer water, but use a little wine for thy stomach's sake and thine often infirmities. 24 Some men's sins are open beforehand, going before to judgment; and some men they follow after. 25 Likewise also the good works of some are manifest beforehand; and they that are otherwise cannot be hid.

- Laying on of hands was a symbol of being placed in leadership **Acts 6:6** Whom they set before the apostles: and when they had prayed, they laid their hands on them **13:3** And when they had fasted and prayed, and laid their hands on them, they sent them away **I Timothy 4:14** Neglect not the gift that is in thee, which was given thee by prophecy, with the laying on of the hands of the presbytery **II Timothy 1:6** Wherefore I put thee in remembrance that thou stir up the gift of God, which is in thee by the putting on of my hands.

1. Timothy was warned to use patience in choosing leaders or to not make hasty judgments **I Timothy 5:22** Lay hands suddenly on no man, neither be partaker of other men's sins: keep thyself pure.
 - a. You can't always be sure that a man is not living in sin **I Timothy 5:24** Some men's sins are open beforehand, going before to judgment; and some men they follow after.
 - b. You can't always be sure that a man is doing good works **I Timothy 5:25** Likewise also the good works of some are manifest beforehand; and they that are otherwise cannot

be hid.

2. There was to always be proof before making decisions

I Timothy 5:22 Lay hands suddenly on no man, neither be partaker of other men's sins: keep thyself pure, 19 Against an elder receive not an accusation, but before two or three witnesses

a. Before being allowed into leadership

i. He can not be new to the ministry or leadership

I Timothy 3:6 Not a novice, lest being lifted up with pride he fall into the condemnation of the devil.

ii. Good report from non believers I Timothy 3:7 Moreover he must have a good report of them which are without; lest he fall into reproach and the snare of the devil.

iii. He must do the work before he gets the position

I Timothy 3:10 And let these also first be proved; then let them use the office of a deacon, being found blameless.

b. Before the public rebuke

i. There must be at least two witnesses

ii. You must have spoken alone with the person

iii. If that didn't succeed you must have gone with a witness

iv. Finally you are able to take this to the church

3. There was to be no partiality **I Timothy 5:21** I charge thee before God, and the Lord Jesus Christ, and the elect angels, that thou observe these things without preferring one before another, doing nothing by partiality.

a. One is not to be preferred over another **I Timothy 5:21** I charge thee before God, and the Lord Jesus Christ, and the elect angels, that thou observe these things without preferring one before another, doing nothing by partiality.

b. The invitation to serve is to all **Matthew 16:24** Then said Jesus unto his disciples, If any man will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow me. **25** For whosoever will save his life shall lose it: and whosoever will lose his life for my sake shall find it. **26** For what is a man profited, if he shall gain the whole world, and lose his own soul? or what shall a man give in exchange for his soul?

c. The commitment is true sacrifice **Romans 12:1** I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye

present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service. **2** And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God.

- d. True discipleship is available to all but the price is extremely high **Luke 14:26** If any man come to me, and hate not his father, and mother, and wife, and children, and brethren, and sisters, yea, and his own life also, he cannot be my disciple. **27** And whosoever doth not bear his cross, and come after me, cannot be my disciple. **28** For which of you, intending to build a tower, sitteth not down first, and counteth the cost, whether he have sufficient to finish it? **29** Lest haply, after he hath laid the foundation, and is not able to finish it, all that behold it begin to mock him, **30** Saying, This man began to build, and was not able to finish. **31** Or what king, going to make war against another king, sitteth not down first, and consulteth whether he be able with ten thousand to meet him that cometh against him with twenty thousand? **32** Or else, while the other is yet a great way off, he sendeth an ambassage, and desireth conditions of peace.

33 So likewise, whosoever he be of you that forsaketh not all that he hath, he cannot be my disciple.

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Godly Employees

I Timothy 6:1 Let as many servants as are under the yoke count their own masters worthy of all honour, that the name of God and his doctrine be not blasphemed. **2** And they that have believing masters, let them not despise them, because they are brethren; but rather do them service, because they are faithful and beloved, partakers of the benefit. These things teach and exhort. **3** 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; **4** He is proud, knowing nothing, but doting about questions and strifes of words, whereof cometh envy, strife, railings, evil surmisings, **5** Perverse disputings of men of corrupt minds, and destitute of the truth, supposing that gain is godliness: from such withdraw thyself.

- i. Give your employer great honor
 - a. By concentrating on your work **I Thessalonians 4:11**
And that ye study to be quiet, and to do your own

business, and to work with your own hands, as we commanded you;

- b. By being obedient [Titus 2:9](#) Exhort servants to be obedient unto their own masters, and to please them well in all things; not answering again;
- c. Try to please them [Titus 2:9](#) Exhort servants to be obedient unto their own masters, and to please them well in all things; not answering again;
- d. By speaking respectfully [Titus 2:9](#) Exhort servants to be obedient unto their own masters, and to please them well in all things; not answering again;
- e. Not taking what is not yours [Titus 2:10](#) Not purloining, but shewing all good fidelity; that they may adorn the doctrine of God our Saviour in all things.
- f. Being very faithful [Titus 2:10](#) Not purloining, but shewing all good fidelity; that they may adorn the doctrine of God our Saviour in all things.
- g. Show respect even when they do not deserve it
[I Peter 2:18](#) Servants, be subject to your masters with all fear; not only to the good and gentle, but also to the froward. [19](#) For this is thankworthy, if a man for conscience toward God endure grief, suffering

wrongfully. 20 For what glory is it, if, when ye be buffeted for your faults, ye shall take it patiently? but if, when ye do well, and suffer for it, ye take it patiently, this is acceptable with God.

- II. Give Christian employers even more honor and better service
 - a. Realize that you are not working for or serving a man but God Colossians 3:22 Servants, obey in all things your masters according to the flesh; not with eyeservice, as menpleasers; but in singleness of heart, fearing God; 23 And whatsoever ye do, do it heartily, as to the Lord, and not unto men; 24 Knowing that of the Lord ye shall receive the reward of the inheritance: for ye serve the Lord Christ. 25 But he that doeth wrong shall receive for the wrong which he hath done: and there is no respect of persons.
 - b. Don't do right just when they are watching Colossians 3:22 Servants, obey in all things your masters according to the flesh; not with eyeservice, as menpleasers; but in singleness of heart, fearing God; 23 And whatsoever ye do, do it heartily, as to the Lord,

and not unto men; 24 Knowing that of the Lord ye shall receive the reward of the inheritance: for ye serve the Lord Christ. 25 But he that doeth wrong shall receive for the wrong which he hath done: and there is no respect of persons.

- c. Be sincerely respectful Ephesians 6:5 Servants, be obedient to them that are your masters according to the flesh, with fear and trembling, in singleness of your heart, as unto Christ; 6 Not with eyeservice, as menpleasers; but as the servants of Christ, doing the will of God from the heart; 7 With good will doing service, as to the Lord, and not to men: 8 Knowing that whatsoever good thing any man doeth, the same shall he receive of the Lord, whether he be bond or free.
- d. Do more than your duty Luke 17:7 But which of you, having a servant plowing or feeding cattle, will say unto him by and by, when he is come from the field, Go and sit down to meat? 8 And will not rather say unto him, Make ready wherewith I may sup, and gird thyself, and serve me, till I have eaten and drunken; and afterward thou shalt eat and drink? 9 Doth he

thank that servant because he did the things that were commanded him? I trow not. 10 So likewise ye, when ye shall have done all those things which are commanded you, say, We are unprofitable servants: we have done that which was our duty to do.

- e. Do them service because they are your brother

I Timothy 6:2 And they that have believing masters, let them not despise them, because they are brethren; but rather do them service, because they are faithful and beloved, partakers of the benefit. These things teach and exhort.

- f. Do not expect better treatment I Timothy 6:2 And they that have believing masters, let them not despise them, because they are brethren; but rather do them service, because they are faithful and beloved, partakers of the benefit. These things teach and exhort.

- g. Work don't talk about it Proverbs 14:23 In all labour there is profit: but the talk of the lips tendeth only to penury.

III. Avoid those who teach otherwise

- a. Good workers give a good testimony—lazy workers cause people to mock the word of God **I Timothy 6:1** Let as many servants as are under the yoke count their own masters worthy of all honour, that the name of God and his doctrine be not blasphemed.
- b. These teachings lead to godliness **I Timothy 6:3** 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;
- c. Those who teach another work ethic or attitude are proud, they know nothing, just want to cause strife, they are corrupt men, and do not have the truth, nor do they understand what is right **I Timothy 6:3** 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; **4** He is proud, knowing nothing, but doting about questions and strifes of words, whereof cometh envy, strife, railings, evil surmisings, **5** Perverse disputings of men of corrupt minds, and destitute of the truth, supposing that gain is godliness: from such withdraw thyself.

- d. They think that getting is godliness [I Timothy 6:5](#)
Perverse disputings of men of corrupt minds, and destitute of the truth, supposing that gain is godliness: from such withdraw thyself.
- e. Get away from this type of person [I Timothy 6:5](#)
Perverse disputings of men of corrupt minds, and destitute of the truth, supposing that gain is godliness: from such withdraw thyself.

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Getting control of your money

I Timothy 6:3 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; 4 He is proud, knowing nothing, but doting about questions and strifes of words, whereof cometh envy, strife, railings, evil surmisings, 5 Perverse disputings of men of corrupt minds, and destitute of the truth, supposing that gain is godliness: from such withdraw thyself. 6 But godliness with contentment is great gain. 7 For we brought nothing into *this* world, *and it is* certain we can carry nothing out. 8 And having food and raiment let us be therewith content. 9 But they that will be rich fall into temptation and a snare, and *into* many foolish and hurtful lusts, which drown men in destruction and perdition. 10 For the love of money is the root of all evil: which while some coveted after, they have erred from the faith, and pierced themselves through with many sorrows.

1. Learning to be content with what you have
 - a. It is better to live with a little many times
Proverbs 15:16 Better is little with the fear of the Lord than great treasure and trouble therewith.
Psalms 37:16 A little that a righteous man hath is better than the riches of many wicked.
 - b. Be happy with your salary **Luke 3:14** And the soldiers likewise demanded of him, saying, And what shall we do? And he said unto them, Do violence to no man, neither accuse any falsely; and be content with your wages.
 - c. Be content in whatever situation you find yourself in
Philippians 4:11 Not that I speak in respect of want: for I have learned, in whatsoever state I am, therewith to be content.
 - d. Be happy with what you have now **Hebrews 13:5** Let your conversation be without covetousness; and be content with such things as ye have: for he hath said, I will never leave thee, nor forsake thee.
 - e. Be happy with what is convenient for you or just the needed **Proverbs 30:8** Remove far from me vanity and lies: give me neither poverty nor riches; feed me with

food convenient for me: **9** Lest I be full, and deny thee, and say, Who is the Lord? or lest I be poor, and steal, and take the name of my God in vain.

f. Contentment is great gain

g. Content with food and raiment

2. God gets angry with complainers

a. **Numbers 11:4** And the mixt multitude that was among them fell a lusting: and the children of Israel also wept again, and said, Who shall give us flesh to eat? **5** We remember the fish, which we did eat in Egypt freely; the cucumbers, and the melons, and the leeks, and the onions, and the garlick: **6** But now our soul is dried away: there is nothing at all, beside this manna, before our eyes. **7** And the manna was as coriander seed, and the colour thereof as the colour of bdellium. **8** And the people went about, and gathered it, and ground it in mills, or beat it in a mortar, and baked it in pans, and made cakes of it: and the taste of it was as the taste of fresh oil. **9** And when the dew fell upon the camp in the night, the manna fell upon it. **10** Then Moses heard the people weep throughout their families, every man in the door of his tent: and the

anger of the Lord was kindled greatly; Moses also was displeased. **11** And Moses said unto the Lord, Wherefore hast thou afflicted thy servant? and wherefore have I not found favour in thy sight, that thou layest the burden of all this people upon me? **12** Have I conceived all this people? have I begotten them, that thou shouldest say unto me, Carry them in thy bosom, as a nursing father beareth the sucking child, unto the land which thou swarest unto their fathers? **13** Whence should I have flesh to give unto all this people? for they weep unto me, saying, Give us flesh, that we may eat. **14** I am not able to bear all this people alone, because it is too heavy for me. **15** And if thou deal thus with me, kill me, I pray thee, out of hand, if I have found favour in thy sight; and let me not see my wretchedness. **16** And the Lord said unto Moses, Gather unto me seventy men of the elders of Israel, whom thou knowest to be the elders of the people, and officers over them; and bring them unto the tabernacle of the congregation, that they may stand there with thee. **17** And I will come down and talk with thee there: and I will take of the spirit which

is upon thee, and will put it upon them; and they shall bear the burden of the people with thee, that thou bear it not thyself alone. 18 And say thou unto the people, Sanctify yourselves against to morrow, and ye shall eat flesh: for ye have wept in the ears of the Lord, saying, Who shall give us flesh to eat? for it was well with us in Egypt: therefore the Lord will give you flesh, and ye shall eat. 19 Ye shall not eat one day, nor two days, nor five days, neither ten days, nor twenty days; 20 But even a whole month, until it come out at your nostrils, and it be loathsome unto you: because that ye have despised the Lord which is among you, and have wept before him, saying, Why came we forth out of Egypt? because they were despising God and what he had done for them

- b. I Corinthians 10:5 But with many of them God was not well pleased: for they were overthrown in the wilderness. 6 Now these things were our examples, to the intent we should not lust after evil things, as they also lusted. 10 Neither murmur ye, as some of them also murmured, and were destroyed of the destroyer.

3. Those that desire to be rich

- a. They fall into temptation and a snare
- b. Something that drowns men
- c. Causes men to leave the faith
- d. Many sorrows
- e. The deceitfulness of riches **Mark 4:19** And the cares of this world, and the deceitfulness of riches, and the lusts of other things entering in, choke the word, and it becometh unfruitful.
- f. Moses understood what was of true value **Hebrews 11:26** Esteeming the reproach of Christ greater riches than the treasures in Egypt: for he had respect unto the recompence of the reward.
- g. Money can not satisfy **Ecclesiastes 5:10** He that loveth silver shall not be satisfied with silver; nor he that loveth abundance with increase: this is also vanity.
- h. Eternal value **II Corinthians 4:16** For which cause we faint not; but though our outward man perish, yet the inward man is renewed day by day. **17** For our light affliction, which is but for a moment, worketh for us a far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory; **18** While we look not at the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen: for the things which

are seen are temporal; but the things which are not seen are eternal.

- i. Choose one or the other [Matthew 6:24](#) No man can serve two masters: for either he will hate the one, and love the other; or else he will hold to the one, and despise the other. Ye cannot serve God and mammon.
- 4. You can't take it with you [Ecclesiastes 2:18](#) Yea, I hated all my labour which I had taken under the sun: because I should leave it unto the man that shall be after me.
- 5. You can deposit it in heaven now [Matthew 6:19](#) Lay not up for yourselves treasures upon earth, where moth and rust doth corrupt, and where thieves break through and steal: [20](#) But lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust doth corrupt, and where thieves do not break through nor steal: [21](#) For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also.
 - a. Paul counted it all as loss or garbage [Philippians 3:8](#) Yea doubtless, and I count all things but loss for the excellency of the knowledge of Christ Jesus my Lord: for whom I have suffered the loss of all things, and do count them but dung, that I may win Christ,

- b. Lay up treasures [I Timothy 6:19](#) Laying up in store for themselves a good foundation against the time to come, that they may lay hold on eternal life.

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Content One

I Timothy 6:6 But godliness with contentment is great gain.

- The opposite of contentment is covetousness
- Covetousness clenches things in a selfish grip.
- Living without covetousness means living without the love of other things over Jesus
- Covetousness has its root in discontent, i.e. seeking our happiness, peace, and well being in the details of life (money, position, power, possessions).
- Man's life is not how much he has **Luke 12:15** And he said unto them, Take heed, and beware of covetousness: for a man's life consisteth not in the abundance of the things which he possesseth.
- The word has the idea of thirsting to have more, always more and still more
- The eyes of a man are never satisfied **Proverbs 27:20**
- Covetousness causes a man to see only his wants rather than the needs of his soul, so it blinds the eyes of his understanding and closes his ears to hearing God's claims upon him and his life.

- His self-interests cause his ears to be closed to the precepts and commandments of the Word of God that God has given for the good of mankind and for His own glory.
- In his heart he says I must have my way: I'll have that woman or that man if I have to break up their marriage to get them. I'll have that position if I have to kill someone to get it. I'll have my pleasure and my drink, my money, my home, my job, my good times in life and my way, no matter what the consequences!
- Covetousness then, blinds the soul into believing a lie: that he has the right to do with himself as he pleases; and he says to God, "Don't You get in my way!"
- Covetousness is idolatry **Colossians 3:5** Mortify therefore your members which are upon the earth; fornication, uncleanness, inordinate affection, evil concupiscence, and **covetousness, which is idolatry:**
- Covetousness is an unhealthy desire to have more than one possesses.
- Covetousness is a discontent with what we have and an intense desire for something else, something we believe will make us happy or satisfied.

- Things and the cares of this world will choke out the Word of God in our lives **Matthew 13:22** He also that received seed among the thorns is he that heareth the word; and **the care of this world**, and the deceitfulness of riches, **choke the word, and he becometh unfruitful.**
- Covetousness is the root sin that leads to sexual sin as well as many others
- Not being satisfied with what you have in a partner, money, possessions, even ministry is covetousness
- Covetousness is the mother of all sins

1. The first question you must ask to become content is: **Is Jesus enough?** **Matthew 6:24** **No man can serve two masters:** for either he will hate the one, and love the other; or else he will hold to the one, and despise the other. Ye cannot serve **God and mammon.** ²⁵ Therefore I say unto you, **Take no thought** for your life, what ye shall eat, or what ye shall drink; nor yet for your body, what ye shall put on. Is not the life more than meat, and the body than raiment? ³¹ Therefore take no thought, saying, What shall we eat? or, What shall we drink? or, Wherewithal shall we

be clothed? ³² (For after **all these things** do the Gentiles seek:) for your heavenly Father knoweth that ye have **need of all these things.** ³³ But **seek ye first** the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and **all these things** shall be added unto you.

- a. We have to choose what we seek in life
 - b. There are lots of things that are good in and of themselves but we seek the Lord and His will for our lives
 - c. God knows what we need
 - d. We are welcome to ask Him and wait on Him
 - e. But we are to seek Him and wait on Him to provide what He believes that we need
 - f. How can we actively be seeking Him and His kingdom
 - i. Our singleness can be a blessing from the Lord giving us extra time and less things to worry about-
 - 1. The man can use his singleness as a way to be more involved in the ministry and the things of the Lord
- I Corinthians 7:32-33** But I would have you **without carefulness.** He that is **unmarried careth for the things that belong to the Lord,** how he may please the Lord: ³³ But he that is **married careth** for the

things that are of the world, **how he may please his wife.**

2. The woman has the same privilege to use her singleness to please the Lord [I Corinthians 7:34-35](#)
There is difference *also* between a wife and a virgin. The **unmarried woman careth for the things of the Lord**, that she may be holy both in body and in spirit: but she that is **married careth** for the things of the world, **how she may please her husband.**

³⁵ And this I speak for your own profit; not that I may cast a snare upon you, but for that which is comely, and that ye may attend upon the Lord **without distraction.**

- a. Notice the married people are busy taking care of their spouses
 - b. They are so busy with their families they often put the things of God on hold
 - c. Singleness could give you the opportunity to serve without distraction
- ii. Our personal walk with the Lord-Bible reading, prayer, personal growth
- iii. Visitation, soul winning, discipleship, activities

iv. Giving ourselves to good works **Titus 3:14** And let ours also **learn to maintain good works** for necessary uses, that they be not unfruitful. **I Timothy 6:18** That they do good, that they be **rich in good works**, ready to distribute, willing to communicate **Ephesians 2:10** For we are his workmanship, **created in Christ Jesus unto good works**, which God hath before ordained that we should walk in them. **Matthew 5:16** Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your **good works**, and glorify your Father which is in heaven.

2. Our contentment is based on things outside of our self
Hebrews 13:5-6 *Let your conversation be without covetousness; and **be content with such things as ye have***: for he hath said, I will never leave thee, nor forsake thee. ⁶ So that we may boldly say, **The Lord is my helper**, and I will not fear what man shall do unto me.
- a. Contentment is not based on what I have but on who I know and whose I am
 - b. I am to be content with the things that I have knowing that God gave me what I have

- c. I am to know that the Lord is my helper and because He is I need not fear anything that man can do to me
 - d. Being content with what we have is a familiar teaching in the Bible
 - e. Jesus told the soldiers [Luke 3:14](#) *And the soldiers likewise demanded of him, saying, And what shall we do? And he said unto them, Do violence to no man, neither accuse **any** falsely; and **be content with your wages.***
3. Real gain or profit in life is not about money, things, property or even people [I Timothy 6:5](#) *Perverse disputings of **men of corrupt minds**, and destitute of the truth, **supposing that gain is godliness:** from such withdraw thyself. ⁶ But **godliness with contentment is great gain.** ⁷ For we brought nothing into *this* world, *and it is* certain we can carry nothing out. ⁸ And **having food and raiment let us be therewith content.** ⁹ But **they that will be** rich fall into temptation and a snare, and *into* many foolish and hurtful lusts, which drown men in destruction and perdition. ¹⁰ For **the love of** money is the root of all evil: which while some **coveted after**, they have*

erred from the faith, and pierced themselves through with many sorrows. ¹¹ But thou, O man of God, **flee these things;** and **follow after** righteousness, godliness, faith, love, patience, meekness. ¹² Fight the good fight of faith, lay hold on eternal life, whereunto thou art also called, and hast professed a good

- a. Men of corrupt minds think that getting more stuff is because of my godliness
- b. We are to get away from that kind of person ⁵ Perverse disputings of **men of corrupt minds**, and destitute of the truth, **supposing that gain is godliness:** from such withdraw thyself.
- c. Real gain is when I realize that all I need in life is to please God ⁶ But godliness with contentment is **great gain.**
- d. We are to be content with the bare necessities ⁷ For we brought nothing into *this* world, *and it is* certain we can carry nothing out. ⁸ And **having food and raiment let us be therewith content.**
- e. The “**will be’s**” will destroy us ⁹ But **they that will be** rich fall into temptation and a snare, and *into* many

foolish and hurtful lusts, which drown men in destruction and perdition.

- f. When you have any desire but Jesus you set yourself up to be hurt ¹⁰ For **the love of** money is the root of all evil: which while some **coveted after**, they have erred from the faith, and pierced themselves through with many sorrows.
 - g. Because we are the people of God we have other goals that aren't the common ones in our society ¹¹ But thou, O man of God, **flee these things**; and **follow after** righteousness, godliness, faith, love, patience, meekness. ¹² Fight the good fight of faith, lay hold on eternal life, whereunto thou art also called, and hast professed a good
4. Paul explains how he learned to deal with whatever situation he found himself in **Philippians 4** ¹⁰ But I rejoiced in the Lord greatly, that now at the last your care of me hath flourished again; wherein ye were also careful, but ye lacked opportunity. ¹¹ Not that I speak in respect of want: for **I have learned**, in whatsoever state I am, *therewith* **to be content.** ¹² **I know both how** to be

abased, and **I know how** to abound: every where and in all things **I am instructed** both to be full and to be hungry, both to abound and to suffer need. ¹³ **I can** do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me.

- a. Living a content life is a learned response
- b. It can be learned when you learn to think the right thoughts
- c. Paul states that he knows how
- d. He explains that he has been instructed

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Great Gain

I Timothy 6:6 But godliness with contentment is great gain.

7 For we brought nothing into this world, and it is certain we can carry nothing out. 8 And having food and raiment let us be therewith content. 9 But they that will be rich fall into temptation and a snare, and into many foolish and hurtful lusts, which drown men in destruction and perdition. 10 For the love of money is the root of all evil: which while some coveted after, they have erred from the faith, and pierced themselves through with many sorrows. 11 But thou, O man of God, flee these things; and follow after righteousness, godliness, faith, love, patience, meekness.

I. Godliness with contentment is great gain

a. We should be happy with what we have Hebrews 13:5

Let your conversation be without covetousness; and be content with such things as ye have: for he hath said, I will never leave thee, nor forsake thee.

i. Soldiers were to be happy with their salary

Luke 3:14 And the soldiers likewise demanded of

him, saying, And what shall we do? And he said unto them, Do violence to no man, neither accuse any falsely; and be content with your wages.

ii. We are to live without the love of money

Hebrews 13:5 Let your conversation be without covetousness; and be content with such things as ye have: for he hath said, I will never leave thee, nor forsake thee.

- b. Paul had learned to be happy in whatever state he was in Philippians 4:11 Not that I speak in respect of want: for I have learned, in whatsoever state I am, therewith to be content. 12 I know both how to be abased, and I know how to abound: every where and in all things I am instructed both to be full and to be hungry, both to abound and to suffer need. 13 I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me.
- c. We are to be happy with just food and clothing 6:8 And having food and raiment let us be therewith content.
- d. We are to remember where we came from and where we are going 6:7 For we brought nothing into this

world, and it is certain we can carry nothing out.

II. The love of money is the root of all evil

- a. Money is not the root of all evil but the love of it
- b. It is ok to have money if money doesn't have you
- c. You must choose to love one or the other

Matthew 6:24 No man can serve two masters: for either he will hate the one, and love the other; or else he will hold to the one, and despise the other. Ye cannot serve God and mammon.

- d. Money will take you away from God and then hurt you and leave you **Proverbs 23:5** Wilt thou set thine eyes upon that which is not? for riches certainly make themselves wings; they fly away as an eagle toward heaven. **Isaiah 55:2** Wherefore do ye spend money for that which is not bread? and your labour for that which satisfieth not? hearken diligently unto me, and eat ye that which is good, and let your soul delight itself in fatness.

- III. A lack of contentment or a desire for money sets us up to fail
- a. The problem is the will be 6:9 But they that will be rich fall into temptation and a snare, and into many foolish and hurtful lusts, which drown men in destruction and perdition.
 - b. The money becomes a snare and leads to foolish and hurtful lusts 6:9 But they that will be rich fall into temptation and a snare, and into many foolish and hurtful lusts, which drown men in destruction and perdition.
 - c. The temptation is based on what you desire
James 1:13 Let no man say when he is tempted, I am tempted of God: for God cannot be tempted with evil, neither tempteth he any man 14 But every man is tempted, when he is drawn away of his own lust, and enticed. 15 Then when lust hath conceived, it bringeth forth sin: and sin, when it is finished, bringeth forth death. 16 Do not err, my beloved brethren.
 - d. Your desire is the bait that sets the trap
 - e. There can be only one desire for the disciple
Matthew 6:33 But seek ye first the kingdom of God,

and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you.

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Instructions to the man of God

I Timothy 6:11 But thou, **O man of God, flee**

these things; and **follow after**

righteousness, godliness, faith, love,

patience, meekness. ¹² **Fight** the good fight

of faith, **lay hold on** eternal life, whereunto thou

art also called, and hast professed a good profession before many witnesses.

I. Flee

a. The love of money I Timothy 6:9 But they that **will**

be rich fall into temptation and a snare, and into many foolish and hurtful lusts, which drown men in

destruction and perdition. 10 For **the love of money** is the root of all evil: which while some **coveted after**, they have erred from the faith, and pierced themselves through with many sorrows.

- i. Because he knows the results of those who hunger after money
- ii. Instead of happiness and contentment many have left the faith and found many sorrows

b. Youthful lusts II Timothy 2:22 **Flee also**

youthful lusts: but **follow**

righteousness, faith, charity,

peace, with them that call on the Lord out of a pure heart.

- i. Sinful desires
- ii. Desires that would separate him from being used of God, pride—lifted up

c. Fornication or sexual sin **I Corinthians 6:18** **Flee**

fornication. Every sin that a man doeth is without the body; but he that committeth fornication sinneth against his own body., story of Joseph

d. Idolatry **I Corinthians 10:14** Wherefore, my dearly

beloved, **flee** from idolatry. **Isaiah 44:17** And the

residue thereof **he maketh a god**, even his graven image: he falleth down unto it, and worshippeth it, and prayeth unto it, and saith,

Deliver me; for thou art my god.

18 They have not known nor understood: for he hath shut their eyes, that they cannot see; and their hearts, that they cannot understand. **19** And none considereth in his heart, neither is there knowledge nor

understanding to say, **I have burned part of it** in the fire; yea, also I have baked bread upon the coals thereof; I have roasted flesh, and eaten it: and shall **I make the residue thereof an**

abomination? shall I fall down to the stock of a tree?

II. Follow

III. Righteousness, Godliness, good character—the inner man,

“BE” **Psalms 15:1** Lord, who shall abide in thy tabernacle?

who shall dwell in thy holy hill? **2** He that **walketh**

uprightly, and **worketh righteousness,**

and **speaketh the truth in his heart.** **3** He

that **backbiteth not with his tongue, nor**

doeth evil to his neighbour, nor

taketh up a reproach against his

neighbour. **4** In whose eyes a **vile person is**

condemned; but he **honoureth them that**

fear the Lord. He that **swaureth to his**

own hurt, and changeth not. **5** He that

putteth not out his money to usury,

nor taketh reward against the

innocent. He that doeth these things shall never be moved.

a. Faith learn more of what to believe—put it into practice

b. Love **I Corinthians 13:1** Though I speak with the

tongues of men and of angels, and **have not**

charity, I am become as sounding brass, or a

tinkling cymbal. **2** And though I have the gift of

prophecy, and understand all mysteries, and all

knowledge; and though I have all faith, so that I could

remove mountains, and **have not charity,** I

am nothing. **3** And though I bestow all my goods to

feed the poor, and though I give my body to be

burned, and **have not charity,** it profiteth me

nothing. **4** Charity **suffereth long,** and **is**

kind; charity **envieth not;** charity

vaunteth not itself, is not puffed

up, 5 Doth not behave itself

unseemly, seeketh not her own, is not easily provoked, thinketh no evil; 6 Rejoiceth not in iniquity, but rejoiceth in the truth; 7 Beareth all things, believeth all things, hopeth all things, endureth all things.

8 Charity never faileth: but whether there be prophecies, they shall fail; whether there be tongues, they shall cease; whether there be knowledge, it shall vanish away.

- c. Patience or endurance—faithfulness in spite of difficulty
- d. Meekness, gentleness—power under control—Moses
- e. Cycle of growth II Peter 1:5 And beside this, giving all

diligence, **add to** your faith virtue; and to virtue knowledge; 6 And to knowledge temperance; and to temperance patience; and to patience godliness; 7 And to godliness brotherly kindness; and

to brotherly kindness charity.

IV. Fight the good fight

- a. Lay hold on eternal life [Philippians 3:12](#) Not as though I had already attained, either were already perfect: but I follow after, if that I may apprehend that for which also I am apprehended of Christ Jesus. [13](#) Brethren, I count not myself to have apprehended: but this one thing I do, **forgetting those things which are behind, and reaching forth unto those things which are before,** [14](#) **I press toward the mark** for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus.
- b. Dedicated to one cause and purpose [II Timothy 2:4](#) **No man that warreth entangleth himself with the affairs of this life;** that he may please him who hath chosen him to be a soldier.

- c. Learn how to be involved in spiritual warfare

II Corinthians 10:3 For though we walk in the flesh, we

do not war after the flesh: 4 (For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal, but mighty through God to the pulling down of strong holds;)

5 **Casting down imaginations,** and every high thing that exalteth itself against the knowledge of God, and **bringing into captivity** every thought to the obedience of Christ;

- d. Finish your course, the task God has for you

II Timothy 4:7 I have fought a good fight, I have

finished my course, I have kept the faith:

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Instructions to the American Church

I Timothy 6:17 Charge them that are **rich in this world**, that they be not highminded, **nor trust in uncertain riches, but in the living God**, who giveth us richly **all things to enjoy**; 18 That they **do good**, that they **be rich** in good works, ready to **distribute**, willing to **communicate**; 19 **Laying up in store** for themselves a good foundation against the time to come, that they may lay hold on eternal life.

1. Defining the words "rich in this world" Matthew 19:23 Then said Jesus unto his disciples, Verily I say unto you, That a **rich man** shall hardly enter into the kingdom of heaven.
 - a. IF There Were Only 100 People in the World 6 people would possess... 59% of the entire World's wealth and all 6 would be from the United States
 - b. If you have food in the refrigerator, clothes on your back, a roof overhead and a place to sleep...you are richer than 75% of this world.

- c. If you have money in the bank, in your wallet, and spare change in a dish someplace...you are among the top 8% of the world's wealthy.
- d. Nearly 50% of the world lives on less than \$2 a day

2. Attitude of Trust

- a. Having money and things only makes us rich in this world and is not proof of our spirituality or relationship to God—example the rich man and Lazarus [Luke 16](#)
- b. Money shouldn't give us an attitude of pride
[Deuteronomy 8:17](#) And thou say in thine heart, **My power and the might of *mine* hand hath gotten me this wealth.**
- c. Our trust must be in God [Proverbs 11:28](#) **He that trusteth in his riches shall fall:** But the righteous shall flourish as a branch. [Jeremiah 9:23](#) Thus saith the Lord, **Let not the wise *man* glory in his wisdom, Neither let the mighty *man* glory in his might, Let not the rich *man* glory in his riches:** [24](#) But let him that glorieth glory in this, That he understandeth and knoweth me, That I *am* the Lord which exercise lovingkindness,

judgment, and righteousness, in the earth: For in these *things* I delight, saith the Lord.

- d. He gives us all things to enjoy [Matthew 6:32](#) (For after all these things do the Gentiles seek:) for your heavenly Father knoweth that ye have **need of all these things.** [Ecclesiastes 5:18](#) Behold *that* which I have seen: *it is* good and comely *for one* to eat and to drink, and to enjoy the good of all his labour that he taketh under the sun all **the days of his life, which God giveth him:** for it *is* his portion. [19](#) Every man also **to whom God hath given riches and wealth**, and hath given him power to eat thereof, and to take his portion, and to rejoice in his labour; **this is the gift of God.**

3. Our Responsibility

- a. Do good [Galatians 6:10](#) As we have therefore opportunity, let us **do good unto all *men***, especially unto them who are of the **household of faith.** [Luke 6:33](#) And if ye do good to them which do good to you, **what thank have ye?** for sinners also do even the same. [35](#) But love ye your enemies, and do good, and lend, hoping for nothing again; and your reward shall be great, and ye shall be the

children of the Highest: **for he is kind unto the unthankful and to the evil.** I Peter 3:8 Finally, *be ye all of one mind, having compassion one of another, love as brethren, be pitiful, be courteous:* 9 Not rendering evil for evil, or railing for railing: but contrariwise blessing; knowing that ye are thereunto called, that ye should inherit a blessing. 10 For he that will love life, and see good days, let him refrain his tongue from evil, and his lips that they speak no guile: 11 Let him eschew evil, and do good; **let him seek peace, and ensue it.**

- b. Be rich in good works Titus 2:14. Who gave himself for us, that he might redeem us from all iniquity, and purify unto himself a peculiar people, **zealous of good works.**

Dorcas

- c. Ready to distribute Romans 12:13 **Distributing** to the necessity of saints; given to hospitality. I John 3:17 But whoso hath this world's good, and **seeth his brother have need,** and shutteth up his bowels *of compassion* from him, **how dwelleth the love of God in him?**

- d. Willing to communicate **Philippians 4:14** Notwithstanding ye have well done, that **ye did communicate** with my affliction. **15** Now ye Philippians know also, that in the beginning of the gospel, when I departed from Macedonia, **no church communicated** with me as concerning **giving and receiving**, but ye only.

4. His promise

- a. Laying up rewards in Heaven **Matthew 6:19** Lay not up for yourselves **treasures upon earth**, where moth and rust doth corrupt, and where thieves break through and steal: **20** But **lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven**, where neither moth nor rust doth corrupt, and where thieves do not break through nor steal: **21** For **where your treasure is**, there will your heart be also.
- b. Preparations for future days **Psalms 41:1** Blessed *is* he that **considereth the poor**: The Lord will deliver him in time of trouble. **Proverbs 19:17** He that hath **pity upon the poor** lendeth unto the Lord; And that which he hath given will he pay him again.

- c. Shows your earnestness in serving God [Philippians 3:14](#) **I**
press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling
of God in Christ Jesus.

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Committed to our Trust

I Timothy 6:20-21 O Timothy, **keep that which is committed to thy trust**, avoiding profane *and* vain babblings, and oppositions of science falsely so called: 21 Which some professing have erred concerning the faith. Grace *be* with thee. Amen.

1. Keep what He committed to you!

a. The gospel has been committed to our trust

I Timothy 1:11 According to the glorious gospel of the blessed God, which was committed to my trust.

b. We must keep the sound words II Timothy 1:13 Hold fast the form of sound words, which thou hast heard of me, in faith and love which is in Christ Jesus.

c. Study to show yourself approved II Timothy 2:15 Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.

- d. Learn to use what you learn **Titus 1:9** 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.
- e. The world, the Word, the Holy Spirit, the Church, our time, treasure, talent, health, and heritage

2. Stay on target

- a. Avoid discussions and studies that do not lead to edification or the building up of one's faith **I Timothy 1:4** Neither give heed to fables and endless genealogies, which minister questions, rather than godly edifying which is in faith: *so do.* **II Timothy 3:7** Ever learning, and never able to come to the knowledge of the truth.
- b. Avoid worldly philosophy or popular opinion
Colossians 2:8 Beware lest any man spoil you through philosophy and vain deceit, after the tradition of men, after the rudiments of the world, and not after Christ.
- c. Don't get hung on your knowledge whether Biblical or Secular **Romans 1:21** Because that, when **they knew God**, they glorified *him* not as God, neither were

thankful; but became **vain in their imaginations**, and their foolish heart was darkened.

22 Professing themselves to be wise, they became fools,

- d. By staying away from money motivated ministries. Be careful about the “ME” ministries. **I Timothy 6:4** He is proud, knowing nothing, but dotting about questions and strifes of words, whereof cometh envy, strife, railings, evil surmisings, **5** Perverse disputings of men of corrupt minds, and destitute of the truth, **supposing that gain is godliness:** from such withdraw thyself.

3. Fulfill our commitment

- a. Repeatedly we are told that he is sending us with his gospel **John 20:21** Then said Jesus to them again, Peace *be* unto you: as *my* Father hath sent me, even so send I you.
- b. The ministry of reconciliation **II Corinthians 5:18** And all things *are* of God, who hath reconciled us to himself by Jesus Christ, and hath given to us **the ministry of**

reconciliation; 19 To wit, that God was in Christ, reconciling the world unto himself, not imputing their trespasses unto them; and **hath committed unto us the word of reconciliation.**

c. Made us his ambassadors or spokesperson

II Corinthians 5:20 Now then we are ambassadors for Christ, as though God did beseech *you* by us: we pray *you* in Christ's stead, be ye reconciled to God.

d. You have the keys to heaven and hell. What will you do with them?

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