

THE CHRISTIAN LEADER



4. How he is to Live

(A series of studies from 1 and 2 Timothy)

Introduction

Much of what we teach will be ineffective if our lives do not reflect what we teach others. The Apostle Paul encourages Timothy by saying that he followed what he had been taught. However he reminds Timothy to continue to train himself in godliness and to pursue this quality. Let's look now at how a leader is to live.

1. The Key: Godliness 1 Timothy 4:6-16

- ✧ What do we learn about a person who is a good Christian leader from verses 6 to 10?
- ✧ Contrast the life of the 'good minister' or Christian leader, and the false teacher in verses 1 to 10.



The Holy Spirit produces godliness in us, however Paul says to 'train yourself in godliness'. How does his illustration in v8 help you understand what this means?

2. Godliness in Relationships 1 Timothy 4:11-16, 5:1-16

- ✧ Paul gives Timothy a concise list of instructions. Go through 1 Timothy 4:11-16 and list them.
- ✧ Timothy came from a culture where elders were greatly respected, and because of his age he felt inadequate. What advice does Paul give to younger leaders so they can earn respect? V12, 16

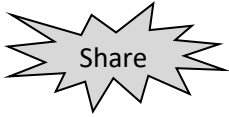


Discuss the difficulties you may face because of your age.

- ✧ Within the Christian community how should you act towards the various age groups? 5:1-2
- ✧ The phrase 'with absolute purity' in 5:2 is important. How can we keep our minds and desires pure in relationships with the opposite sex in the church?

3. Godliness with Contentment 1 Timothy 6:6-10

- ✧ What misconception did some have about godliness? V5 What do you think this means from the context?
- ✧ On the other hand we are told that real gain comes from 'godliness with contentment'. How do you understand this phrase? Look at v7-8, Matthew 6:25-33, Philippians 4:11-13
- ✧ Many people, even those who have plenty, are never content. What is the consequence of desiring to be rich? V9-10 On the other hand what is the value of being content? V7, 17, 19

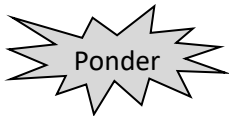


Contentment is not based on how much we have, or do not have. Rather it is an attitude in our hearts. Share together how Paul's words to Timothy speak to you.

4. Aim at Godliness

1 Timothy 6:11-16

- ✧ It isn't easy to live a godly life. We are in a battle! How will it help us in this present fight if we hold to the hope of eternal life? V12
- ✧ What else can we see in verses 12 to 16 that should motivate us to live a godly life?



Notice the fruit listed in v11. Now compare this with 2 Timothy 3:10. Paul is able to point Timothy to his own example. Would you be able to point younger leaders to your example?

Conclusion

The name Timothy means, 'an honor to God'. Like Timothy, when we live a godly life, we will be an honor to the Lord. Perhaps you feel this is so difficult to achieve! It is without the Holy Spirit! But He is in you to empower you, so make it your aim or your goal, to live a godly life. "Godliness has value for all things, holding promise for both the present life and the life to come." 1 Timothy 4:8b