

## I Timothy 4, Sermon #4

I Timothy 4 - Let me take an extra moment to review – refresh us regarding I Timothy:

**Theme of I Timothy** – Sound Doctrine/Teaching for Church Conduct/Behavior

- Chapter 1 – refuse false teaching
- Chapter 2 gave us sound doctrine
  - First, on the importance of prayer specifically for the lost – we want revival in our land – let's pray – 2:1-4
  - Secondly, on the woman's role in the church
- Chapter 3 gave us – sound doctrine – church officers – elders and deacons /

And, now in Chapter 4:

- Vs. 1-5, regarding false teaching and how Pastor Timothy was to handle it  
First with the congregation

Vs. 6 – He was to remind them of the truth, to refute error, to consistently be in the Word, to preach and teach with authority (vs. 11), to exercise himself unto Godliness (vs. 7), and to work hard (vs. 10).

This is where we left off.

The Second part of **The Good Pastor** begins in vs. 12 – A good pastor in relation to himself

Vs. 12 – 16 speaks directly to Timothy – some personal instructions

We will apply those to us today - A good pastor is a model, an example to others

I have entitled today's message "**The Example We Set**"

How many of us set an example? "The Example We Set"

I Timothy 4:12

Let us stand for the reading of God's Holy Word.

I Timothy 4:12-16

Let us pray - You may be seated

## The Example We Set

Vs. 12 starts with a negative and then with a positive

It says, “**Let no man despise** (Think against) **thy youth**” – think less of him because of his age, “**but be thou an example.**” – Figure, pattern, resemblance.

In that day, **Youthfulness** was used to describe anyone under the age of forty.

Evidently Timothy was some what of a young man.

We know that he was a veteran of 15 years of missionary and pastoral work prior to this time.

So, he was not a novice / A rookie in the ministry.

He was probably between 30 – 40 years of age and yet in his assembly, no doubt, there were older people in the church.

One of our elderly ladies in the hospital called Pastor Dan a kid. She said, “He’s just a kid.” Is he really a pastor?

Last Sunday I preached over at Derby, Kansas.

- Pastor Holcomb went on vacation and I met a very young person who introduced himself and then proceeded to tell me he was a deacon.
- And I said to him, “You’re pretty young to be a deacon,” and he quoted I Timothy 4:12. I told him I was preaching on that verse next Sunday.
- Several minutes after the service began, Deacon Julian leaned back and asked if we had any lunch plans. At lunch that day, which lasted several hours, I got to see why this young man was a deacon.

Timothy had that same problem.

Some people evidently in Timothy's church had difficulty following him because of his age.

How do you overcome that barrier?

When I was 23, I wore a mustache. I thought that would help me look older.

Alexander the Great died at 33 but by age 32 he had conquered the world.

How is it you overcome youthfulness?

Paul knew that there would be those in the church, who would say of Timothy,

Well, he's just a young fellow – "he doesn't know anything."

Granted, there were some things he didn't know, but he was not to let anyone despise his youth.

How could Timothy keep people from despising his youth?

By not acting like a young fool.

The important thing is not your age, but your testimony.

**\*The single greatest tool of leadership is the power of an exemplary life.\***

When a life of Godliness is missing, the power is drained out of that witness.

A person's life is his most powerful message.

Authoritative witnessing comes with boldness and power and is undermined if there is not a virtuous life backing it up. We will not be able to tell people effectively in our workplace, in our home, in our sphere of influence about the things of God without a life that backs it up.

I Thessalonians 1:5-6, *“For our gospel came not unto you in word only, (too many people trying to do Christianity in word only) but also in power, and in the Holy Ghost, and in much assurance; as ye know what manner of men we were among you for your sake. And ye became followers of us, and of the Lord, having received the word in much affliction, with joy of the Holy Ghost.”*

Character/quality silences critics of youth, right?

When you're an expert in your field, people do not care how old you are.

If you can play the violin, they will come listen.

The fact that you can play it so well at a young that age makes more people come and listen.

That's what Paul is saying to Timothy – Exercising in Godliness will overcome criticism of your youth.

First principle – I will give five principles over the next several weeks, but only one today – **Let our life be an example / of our faith in Jesus Christ.** As you are today, is your life a good example for the Lord Jesus Christ?

- Are we a walking bill board for Jesus Christ?

Do people see Jesus in us?

A good pastor is a model for others.

Now, God listed six areas in which Timothy was to make every effort to be an example to the church.

This is God's standard – six ways in which we should be an example/role model

**First** one there in vs. 12 – Timothy was to be an example in what? In our words; our speech

“In word” – (4:12) implies that our speech should always be honest and loving,  
 “speaking the truth in love” (Eph. 4:15).

All types of sinful speech must be avoided by the man or woman of God.

Timothy was not to be known for gossip, run others down, criticism, muck, deride, bitter spirit, harsh words, cheap talk, profanity, anything to be ashamed of, or jesting

Ephesians 4:30-31, *“And grieve not the Holy Spirit of God, whereby ye are sealed unto the day of redemption. Let all bitterness, and wrath, and anger, and clamor, and evil speaking, be put away from you, with all malice.”*

Ephesians 5:4, *“Neither filthiness, nor foolish talking, nor jesting, which are not fitting: but rather giving of thanks.”*

Ephesians 4:29

Ephesians 4:25 – Nothing more swiftly destroys a person’s credibility/testimony than his mouth!

Absolute honesty is essential for one who speaks on behalf of the “God who cannot lie.”

Proverbs 6:16-19, *“These six things doth the LORD hate: yea, seven are an abomination unto him: A proud look, a lying tongue, (don’t ever think we can tell lies and God won’t mind) and hands that shed innocent blood, A heart that deviseth wicked imaginations, feet that be swift in running to mischief, A false witness that speaketh lies, and he that soweth with his mouth discord among brethren.”*

To be called a good pastor, one’s speech must be an example.

His talk is to be an example for believers.

**Secondly** – 1 Timothy 4:12, Timothy was to be an example in **conversation** – This is a broader term than just speech and it includes our conduct.

This word refers to our behavior as a person.

A good pastor is required to be a model of righteous living who manifests his Biblical convictions in every area of his life. Just because a person or an institution has right doctrine does not guarantee holy living. There are a lot of people who know the Bible but are not living it.

A Biblical message paired with an ungodly lifestyle is nothing but blatant hypocrisy.

In conduct, in his tone of life

- “Conversation” means “his walk,” not just “his talk.”

Our lives are to be controlled by the Word of God.

Where is the holy man today? The holy woman today? The holy young person today?

- Young people – Are you treating your siblings with godly behavior?
- Parents – is our behavior before our kids pleasing to God?

Christianity as a whole has blown it in righteous living.

- Christians are walking in their liberty but not walking in the spirit.

What has happened to the Spirit-filled life?

Filth of music; movies; dance clubs; divorce court

There has to be a life – Christians are confused because they don't know their Bibles, and their pastors are not living a life of godliness.

A good pastor's life style demonstrates the Bible.

**Third** – Timothy was to be an example, vs. 12, in **charity** – sacrificial love – the same love Jesus demonstrated to man on the Cross.

In John 15:13, our Lord said, *“Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friend.”*

This word clearly is Agape love – This is a person who cares for the things of others. It’s a Biblical love. It is a self-sacrificing service on behalf of others regardless of how one feels.

That word sums up the essence of ministry - a selfless-sacrificial type of living!

(1 John 3:16-18, 4:19-21, 5:3)

- In charity – the Bible says, be an example, selfless, benevolent, giving and don’t expect anything in return.
  - In the family, in the ministry, at work
- “charity – points to the motivation of our lives.

We do not obey God to be applauded by men, but because we love God and love God’s people.

**Fourth** – Timothy was to be an example in **spirit** – The Bible says Daniel was of an excellent spirit – Daniel 5:12

This describes the inner enthusiasm and excitement of a child of God – good spirit in that man or woman.

- When Christians are mad, sour faced, scowl, bitter, fume, negative, woe is me
- Who should be the most joyous people in all the world? Jesus came to give us joy – joy overflowing! This is the day that the Lord hath made. I will rejoice and be glad in it. We need glad believers.

**Fifth** – Timothy was to be an example of **faith**.

Faith here does not refer to saving faith, but to his faithfulness, his unswerving commitment. We need dedicated people of God.

A good pastor is consistently faithful.

He does not swerve off the track; he does not deviate from his course.

I Corinthians 4:2, *“Moreover it is required in stewards, that a man be found faithful.”*

Timothy was to be the first to believe God in a crisis.

He takes the lead in taking it to God in prayer.

“In faith” – implies that we trust God and are faithful to Him.

This faith leads to faithfulness.

In faith, encourages trust in God, dependence on God. People stagger at circumstances. We need to give people hope, increase their faith.

Many people are faithful to God unless He asks something they don't want to do.

Many people are faithful to God until the crisis hits.

The faithful man is found when things are bad, when things are rough!

**Finally** – Timothy was to be an example in **purity**.

This refers primarily to purity in the area of sexuality, both in actions and in the intentions of the heart.

There was to be No hint of immorality in his life.

- He keeps his eyes where they are supposed to be.
- He keeps his thoughts pure.

LADIES, you can really help the men in this endeavor to be pure by dressing modestly.

Make sure your clothing is:

- Long enough



- High enough
- Loose enough

A good pastor's purity causes people to trust him and trust his ministry.

"In purity" – this is important as we live in this present evil world.

Ephesus was a center for sexual impurity, and the young pastor Timothy was faced with temptations.

A pastor is just like any other man, my dear friends.

- He must have a chaste relationship to the women in the church, and
- Keep himself pure in mind, heart, and body (1 Tim. 5:2).

The place of greatest privilege is the place of greatest peril.

The fact that Timothy was a young man should not deter him from practicing the Word.

When the pastor sets this kind of example, it demands a response from the people in the pew.

God named several areas of life in which you and I should be examples.

Let our lives be an example.

Let us stand for closing invitation.

Every eye closed. No one looking around.

Christians, if God has spoken to your heart, go to the Lord in prayer.

Seek His forgiveness, recommit yourself to Him.

Let the Word of God dwell richly in your life.

Be Spirit led Christian. Has God spoken to your heart?

Would you just slip up your hand and let me pray for you?

Pastor, I don't live this kind of life and I don't know Jesus as my Savior.

If that is true of you, would you just slip up your hand and look right at me?

Now, God loves you. He sent His son to die for your sins. We all are sinners.

He died on the cross and paid our sin debt with His blood.

He was buried..... but up from the grave He arose.

He is the Savior of the world and He want to save you.

Will you call on Him to save you?