



2

Godliness

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WHAT DO
THE THINGS
YOU WEAR
SAY ABOUT
YOU?

The
POINT ➤

A godly life points others to Christ.

➤ 1 TIMOTHY 4:6-16

⁶If you put these things before the brothers, you will be a good servant of Christ Jesus, being trained in the words of the faith and of the good doctrine that you have followed. ⁷Have nothing to do with irreverent, silly myths. Rather train yourself for godliness; ⁸for while bodily training is of some value, godliness is of value in every way, as it holds promise for the present life and also for the life to come. ⁹The saying is trustworthy and deserving of full acceptance. ¹⁰For to this end we toil and strive, because we have our hope set on the living God, who is the Savior of all people, especially of those who believe.

¹¹Command and teach these things. ¹²Let no one despise you for your youth, but set the believers an example in speech, in conduct, in love, in faith, in purity. ¹³Until I come, devote yourself to the public reading of Scripture, to exhortation, to teaching. ¹⁴Do not neglect the gift you have, which was given you by prophecy when the council of elders laid their hands on you. ¹⁵Practice these things, immerse yourself in them, so that all may see your progress. ¹⁶Keep a close watch on yourself and on the teaching. Persist in this, for by so doing you will save both yourself and your hearers.



THE BIBLE MEETS LIFE

FACT:

What happens when you mix Weird Girl fashion, which encourages wearing what you want regardless of current trends, with Medieval fashion (think Joan of Arc)? You get the recent trend—Weirdieval fashion!¹



LEVELS OF BIBLICAL LEARNING // PEOPLE

Our response to God's love is to remain pure in all aspects of life—with our bodies, thoughts, attitudes, actions, and speech—and He empowers us to obey His commands as we live by the Spirit.

The clothes we wear say a lot about who we are. For instance, my teen son loves the Pittsburgh Steelers. Every Sunday, he chooses a Steelers hat from his collection to declare once again where his loyalties lie in case anyone had missed his sports accessories in previous weeks and months.

For those who wear brands like Gucci, Prada, or Chanel, they might want to convey an air of success or luxury. Brands like Nike, Adidas, and Puma are chosen by people who are active and athletic (or wish to seem active and athletic). Other people pick clothes because they prioritize comfort, want to fit in, or want to express their current mood.

However, we need to be just as clearly aware of this truth: What we wear can be important, but the character we display is of much greater importance. Scripture teaches that godliness is a character trait that is to identify all followers of Jesus. If there's one thing we're known for, let godliness be the characteristic that marks our lives.

1 TIMOTHY 4:6-8

1 Why is it necessary that we train ourselves in godliness?

2 What “pointless and silly myths” do you hear presented as truth in our culture today?

*Godliness is an all-life reality
that produces all-time benefits.
#BSFLCharacterCounts*

1 TIMOTHY 4:9-11

3 In your own words, what is hope?

4 When have you seen a struggle produce good results in the future?

5 What is the connection between godliness and salvation?

1 TIMOTHY 4:12-16

6 How do we maintain a balanced and biblical perspective between the future and the here and now?

7 In your own life, who has served as a powerful example to help you conform to Christ?

8 How is your life an example of godly living that points others to Jesus?





LIVE IT OUT



LEVELS OF BIBLICAL LEARNING // PEOPLE

Our response to God's love is to remain pure in all aspects of life—with our bodies, thoughts, attitudes, actions, and speech—and He empowers us to obey His commands as we live by the Spirit.

Jesus lived a perfectly righteous life, and though it's impossible for us to live up to this standard, we're nonetheless called to strive to be like Jesus. When we do, the Spirit strengthens us to obey, and He uses our godly lives to point others to Jesus.

> CHRIST

9 Write down ways Jesus lived as a godly example in His speech, conduct, faith, and purity.

> Speech:

> Conduct:

> Faith:

> Purity:

GOD

JESUS

HOLY SPIRIT

BIBLE

SALVATION

CREATION

CHURCH

PEOPLE

FAMILY

COMMUNITY
& WORLD



>COMMUNITY

First Timothy 4:12 tells us that young people who follow Jesus are called to be examples to others in the church.

10 From this list, how do you live as an example for other believers?

11 How specifically will you commit to being an example this week?

>CULTURE

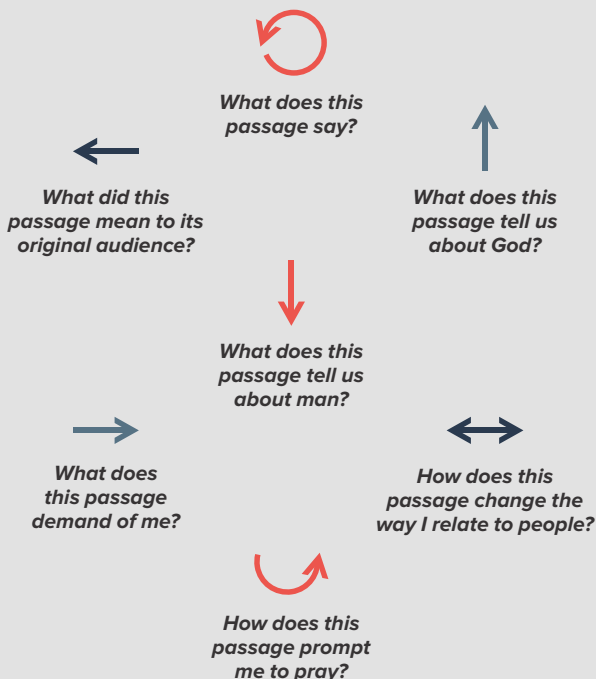
As Jesus's followers, we're called to be examples not only to those in the church but also to non-believing friends and neighbors.

12 How is your godliness on display in a way that draws the lost to Jesus?

DAILY DEVOTIONS



The 7 Arrows of Bible Reading



Day One

2 TIMOTHY 3:10

Timothy was Paul's student and apprentice. Paul, knowing his life would end soon, wrote this letter to Timothy from prison. Paul had invested in Timothy for approximately twenty years, and this letter contains some of Paul's final words to his younger disciple. In the letter, he encouraged Timothy to remain devoted to Jesus, no matter what. Further, he challenged Timothy to hold true to sound doctrine, particularly in view of coming persecution. In this verse, Paul pointed out that he recognized a pattern of godly living in Timothy's life. Paul had provided a good example, and Timothy had been serious about what Paul had taught him. Just as Paul had committed his life to the mission of Jesus, that calling had now been passed down another generation to Timothy, and he was now responsible for providing the same kind of example to others. Today, we would do well to identify mature and faithful Christians and follow their example. In turn, we can then be an example to others.

> **Who provides an example of godly living in your life?**

> **How can you encourage a Christian friend to remain devoted to Jesus, no matter what?**

Day Two

2 TIMOTHY 3:11



Paul faced resistance throughout his ministry, and the opposition was particularly intense in the three cities listed in this verse. In the previous verse, Paul mentioned that Timothy had followed his teaching, conduct, and more. This verse picks up with the sufferings Paul faced. Timothy had accompanied Paul for approximately sixteen years during Paul's missionary journeys, and Timothy had been with Paul when he faced terrible persecution. He had also clearly seen God's hand in delivering Paul over and over again. As he devoted himself to the gospel, Timothy would certainly face further persecutions. Yet he had repeatedly experienced God's power and protection, and he could be sure God would continue to take care of him.

- **When have you experienced God's protection in your own life?**
- **Why can you be confident that God will take care of you in the future?**

Day Three

2 TIMOTHY 3:12

Godliness refers specifically to living in ways that reflect Jesus. In John 15:18-19, Jesus said that because the world hates Him, we can expect that the world will hate us also. When Jesus was on the earth, He was committed to teaching the truth, and it was offensive to many people He encountered. Many people came to Jesus for miracles, for healing, for food, and to have Him meet their practical needs. However, very few wanted the truth and many rejected Jesus, which ultimately led Him to the cross. If Jesus was treated this way, then when we follow Jesus, we should expect the same treatment. In this letter to Timothy, Paul wanted his young student to understand this principle—when we live a godly life, we will be persecuted just as Jesus was.

- **Why did the world reject Jesus?**
- **How does it impact you to know that as we follow Jesus, we will be rejected in much the same way as He was?**

Day Four

2 TIMOTHY 3:13

During the first century, the church continually faced false teachers who were making claims about Jesus that weren't in line with scriptural truth. Deception is the devil's main strategy to lead people astray and into ruin. After all, if people knew an idea was false, they wouldn't buy into it. Satan's lies often contain an element of truth, but the truth is twisted in such a way that it doesn't align with Scripture. And people follow wrong ideas because they are deceived into believing they're right and true. As time went on, Paul warned that the lies would become increasingly sophisticated and that the deceivers would become increasingly skilled and manipulative. Today, we can avoid being deceived by being so thoroughly informed by Scripture that even the smallest falsehood stands out against the truth of the gospel.

- **Why do people buy into the lies of false teachers?**
- **How can we be on guard against deceit?**

Day Five

2 TIMOTHY 3:14-15



Timothy had not only followed Paul's godly example, but he had been raised in a family who was committed to following the Scriptures. Jesus is the ultimate example and encouragement to live by faith. However, God also uses mature believers as examples of godly living which we are to follow. After Paul's death, Timothy would certainly face challenges as he continued following Jesus. Thankfully, Timothy had a heritage of faith that would serve continually as a reminder to persevere in godliness. Today, we will certainly face challenges as we pursue Jesus. When we continually spend time in the Scriptures and live within the context of healthy and encouraging Christian relationships, though, God will give us the strength to press on in godliness.

- **Why are godly examples so important to faithful living?**
- **How does your life show that you're steadfastly committed to godliness?**