

A Good Servant of Jesus Christ

1 Tim.4:6

- Good: loving devotion to a task, to people, and to God.
- Minister: servant.

Question:

What makes a good
servant of Jesus Christ?

I. Never violate your
conscience, 2

Con + science

Know + with

1-2: avoid a seared conscience

- Brand with red iron; sear.
- Cauterized conscience is insensible to distinction between right and wrong.
- Calluses have no feeling.
- Good conscience, 1:5. Mind = judge
 - Ac.23¹ ...I have lived in all good conscience before God until this day.

How does a conscience become callused

1. Assert with lips what we deny with life.
2. Do what we think is wrong; train conscience to compromise.

“I desire so to conduct the affairs of this administration that if at the end, when I come to lay down the reins of power, I have lost every other friend on earth, I shall at least have one friend left, and that friend shall be down inside of me.”

I. Never violate your conscience, 2

II. **Nourish souls**, 6, 11, 13

Instruct other Christians, 6

- **Instruct:** lit., place under (as good foundation?). Put before (ESV).
- Timothy, being nourished, nourishes others.

Mt.13⁵¹ Jesus said to them, Have you understood all these things? They said to Him, Yes, Lord.

⁵² Then He said to them, Therefore every scribe instructed concerning the kingdom of heaven is like a householder who brings out of his treasure things new and old.

- Help others learn what you learn

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- New things are old things in a fresh light.
- Lord's teachings do not destroy OT, but are key to understanding it.
- Ac.2: Peter drew out of OT treasury . . .
 - Ac.1:3, kingdom of God . . . 2:30, Jesus . . .

Instruct other Christians, 6

- **Nourish:** read, digest
- Good doctrine stresses content [what we learn] and conduct [how it changes us].
- Tit.1:9, holding fast the faithful word as he has been taught, that he may be able, by sound doctrine, both to exhort and convict those who contradict.

Instruct other Christians, 6

- **Carefully follow:** 'faithful': conform oneself to
- Do you "follow" sports?
- Ruth 1:14, Then they lifted up their voices and wept again; and Orpah kissed her mother-in-law, but Ruth clung to her . . . 17, Where you die, I will die, And there will I be buried. The LORD do so to me, and more also, If anything but death parts you and me.

Instruct other Christians, 13

- **Emphasize the word of the faith**
- Reading as in synagogues . . .
- Ac.13:15 And after the reading of the Law and the Prophets, the rulers of the synagogue sent to them, saying, Men and brethren, if you have any word of exhortation for the people, say on.
- ...27 For those who dwell in Jerusalem, and their rulers, because they did not know Him, nor even the voices of the Prophets which are read every Sabbath, have fulfilled them in condemning Him.

Instruct other Christians, 13

- Reading, exhortation (application), **Neh.8**
- Doctrine – includes instruction in truth, warning against error
- Command and teach (v.11)

I. Never violate your conscience, 2

II. Nourish souls, 6, 11, 13

III. **Work hard, 7-10**

Exercise – train, as athletes, 7

- Exert yourself to utmost.
- Exclude every hindrance.
- Eyes set on goal (godliness, 8). Includes:
 - Humility (gives God glory), Ac.3:12
 - Quiet, peaceable, tranquil life, 1 Tim.2:2
 - Mystery of godliness; leads to spirit of gratitude, 1 Tim. 3:16
 - Train, 1 Tim.4:7-8

Labor – toil, maximum exertion, 4:10

- Every Christian has plenty to do . . .
 - Pray
 - Study
 - Meditate
 - Self-examination
 - Serve others
 - Teach
 - Set good example . . .

Strive – (agonize), 10; 6:12; 2 Tim.4:7

- Christians are like fish swimming against the current
 - We are a relic of the past, out of step with society
 - People see it in our dress, language, activities, standards, worship, work, goals

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II. Nourish souls, 6, 11, 13

III. Work hard, 7-10

IV. Set good example, 12

Timothy, a young man gives orders to older people

- Greeks emphasized age and experience.
- Some in Ephesus had worked with Paul.
- Despise: disdain, think little or nothing of.
- What to do: be an example (excel) . . .
 - Word – conversation, teaching. Ep.4:15
 - Conduct – manner of life, behavior. 3:15
 - Love – seeks welfare of others. 1 Co.13
 - Faith – faithful, as Ac.16:15; Hb.3:2
 - Purity – complete conformity. 5:2

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**V. Do not neglect
your duties, 14-16**

Neglect neglect

14: neglect – be unconcerned about something. Mt.25:14-30

15: opposite of neglect, v.14

- **Meditate:** to improve by care or study, practice, cultivate, take pains with.
- **Give yourself entirely to:** ‘be in’ – wrapped up in these things.

Neglect neglect

16: **take heed to yourself:** be attentive to

1 Co.9²⁷ But I discipline my body and bring it into subjection, lest, when I have preached to others, I myself should become disqualified.

Neglect neglect

16: take heed to yourself: be attentive to

16: **take heed to the doctrine**

It must matter what we believe . . .

- Charge: continue in them: remain steadfast, persevere.
- Cause: salvation of self and others.