

Character of an Excellent Minister  
1 Timothy 4:6-16

**Outline**

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- 3. Conclusion**
- 4. Questions and Comments**

**INTRODUCTION**

**"Thou shalt be a good minister of Jesus Christ." I Timothy 4:6**

The epistle of **I Timothy** was written to instruct Timothy on how to minister to the church at Ephesus. The key phrase appears in **Chapter 4, verse 6: "Thou shalt be a good minister of Jesus Christ."** "Minister" is the translation of the Greek word diakonos (dee-ak'-on-os), from which we get the English word deacon. It means "servant" and is used of those who hold the office of deacon in the church.

Although the word is not used here in a technical way to designate that office, it implies that anyone who serves in any capacity in ministry must see himself or herself as a servant of the Lord Jesus Christ.

We are called to be servants and stewards, managing that which belongs to God in a way that will bring honor to His name.

In I Timothy 4:6-16, the apostle Paul gives eleven characteristics of being an excellent minister of Christ.

**1. We Warn People of Error:** In **I Timothy 4:1-5**, Paul talks about doctrines of demons propagated by seducing spirits through lying hypocrites. Then he instructs Timothy to warn the church about such doctrines. In verse 6 he says, "Put the brethren in remembrance of these things."

**2. We Are skilled Students of Scripture:** He says also in verse 6, "Nourished up in the words of faith and of good doctrine, unto which thou hast attained."

**3. We Avoid the Influence of Unholy Teaching:** According to verse 7, "Refuse profane and old wives' fables."

**4. We Discipline Ourselves in Personal Godliness:** The issue in ministry is godliness. It isn't how clever you are or how well you communicate; it's whether you know the Word of God and are leading a godly life. Ministry is an overflow of leading a godly life.

**5. We Are Committed to Hard Work:** Having called us to be godly, Paul now brings us back to earth. The ministry is a heavenly pursuit, but it is also an earthly task. It's hard work! He says in verse 10, "We both labor and suffer reproach."

**6. We Teach with Authority:** "These things command and teach," Paul instructed Timothy in verse 11.

## Part II

**7. We Are a Model of Spiritual Virtue:** Paul wrote Timothy and said in verse 12, "Let no man despise thy youth, but be thou an example of the believers, in word, in conduct, in love, in spirit, in faith, in purity."

- **In word –**
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
- **In conduct –**
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
- **In love –**
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
- **In faith –**
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
- **In purity –**

**8. We Have a Thoroughly Biblical Ministry:** "Till I come," Paul told Timothy in verse 13, "give attendance to reading, to exhortation, to doctrine."

- **Reading –**

- **Exhortation –**

- **Doctrine –**

**9. We Fulfill Our Calling:** In 1 Timothy 4:14 Paul writes, "Neglect not the gift that is in thee, which was given thee by prophecy, with the laying on of the hands of the presbytery."

**10. We Are Absorbed in Our Work:** "Meditate upon these things," Paul told Timothy in verse 15, "give thyself wholly to them."

**11. We Are Progressing in Spiritual Growth:** What Paul says in verse 15, "That thy profiting may appear to all" suggests that Timothy's spiritual progress should have been obvious to everyone.