

“The Do’s and Don’ts of Ministry”
Letters to Timothy — Part 9
1 Timothy 4:7-16

The Don’ts of Ministry:

1. Don’t spend all your time on myths fit for the gullible.

Have nothing to do with godless myths and old wives' tales...

1 Timothy 4:7

As I urged you when I went into Macedonia, stay there in Ephesus so that you may command certain men not to teach false doctrines any longer nor to devote themselves to myths and endless genealogies. These promote controversies rather than God's work— which is by faith.

1 Timothy 1:3-4

The Spirit clearly says that in later times some will abandon the faith and follow deceiving spirits and things taught by demons.

1 Timothy 4:1

2. Don’t let age be an issue.

Don't let anyone look down on you because you are young...

1 Timothy 4:12

If Timothy comes, see to it that he has nothing to fear while he is with you, for he is carrying on the work of the Lord, just as I am. No one, then, should refuse to accept him. Send him on his way in peace so that he may return to me. I am expecting him along with the brothers.

1 Corinthians 16:10-11

These, then, are the things you should teach. Encourage and rebuke with all authority. Do not let anyone despise you.

Titus 2:15

3. Don’t neglect your spiritual gift.

Do not neglect your gift, which was given you through a prophetic message when the body of elders laid their hands on you.

1 Timothy 4:14

Now to each one the manifestation of the Spirit is given for the common good...All these are the work of one and the same Spirit, and he gives them to each one, just as he determines.

1 Corinthians 12:7 and 11

The Do’s of Ministry:

1. Exercise physically but give spiritual exercise the priority.

...train yourself to be godly. For physical training is of some value, but godliness has value for all things, holding promise for both the present life and the life to come.

1 Timothy 4:7-8

So run to win! All athletes are disciplined in their training. They do it to win a prize that will fade away, but we do it for an eternal prize. So I run with purpose in every step.

1 Corinthians 9:24-27 (NLT)

What is the goal for which we are striving?

- Is it salvation? (**NO!**)
- Is the goal godliness? (**NO!**)
- Is the goal heaven? (**NO!**)

...God is love. Whoever lives in love lives in God, and God in him. In this way, love is made complete among us so that we will have confidence on the day of judgment, because in this world we are like him.

1 John 4:16-17

Command and teach these things.

1 Timothy 4:11

A Word about Godliness:

This is a trustworthy saying that deserves full acceptance (and for this we labor and strive), that we have put our hope in the living God, who is the Savior of all men, and especially of those who believe.

1 Timothy 4:9-10

He is the atoning sacrifice for our sins, and not only for ours but also for the sins of the whole world.

1 John 2:2

“Not everyone who says to me, ‘Lord, Lord,’ will enter the kingdom of heaven, but only he who does the will of my Father who is in heaven. Many will say to me on that day, ‘Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in your name, and in your name drive out demons and perform many miracles?’ Then I will tell them plainly, ‘I never knew you. Away from me, you evildoers!’”

Matthew 7:21-23

2. Set the example for others.

...set an example for the believers in speech, in life, in love, in faith and in purity.

1 Timothy 4:12

3. Keep God’s Word the top priority.

Until I come, devote yourself to the public reading of Scripture, to preaching and to teaching.

1 Timothy 4:13

4. Pay close attention to yourself and your teaching.

Be diligent in these matters; give yourself wholly to them, so that everyone may see your progress. Watch your life and doctrine closely. Persevere in them, because if you do, you will save both yourself and your hearers.

1 Timothy 4:15-16

Leading a church is not like running a business!

***Faithful pastors need few things to keep them going...
but encouragement is one of them.***

Pastor Chuck Swindoll

Application: Ministry methods don't change. From a pastor's perspective and from the Word of God, Ministers have been commanded to do three things: **A)** set a godly example, **B)** preach and teach the Word of God, and **C)** do both with unfailing consistency.

That's a great application for the pastor, but what about the church member?

- **Don't let your age be an issue!** Set an example for fellow believers by your speech, by your life, by your love for others. Let your faith be evident. Allow the fruit of purity to encourage others to follow Christ passionately.
- **Don't let your spiritual gift go to waste!** All Christians have been called to use their spiritual gift. Paul's words to Timothy should resonate in all of us, "*Do not neglect your gift.*" Your gift was given to you by the Holy Spirit of God for the encouragement and growth of your church.
- **Make progress in your faith!** Just as physical training is important to stay in shape, so spiritual discipline is important to make progress in your faith. Your church is dependent upon your spiritual progress! When we grow together, we don't get stuck in religious ritual, we instead walk in the freshness of the Spirit of God and His priorities keep us pressing toward the goal—Christ Jesus.

I press on toward the goal to win the prize for which God has called me heavenward in Christ Jesus.

Philippians 3:14