

BIBLE BAPTIST CHURCH OF ERIE
SERMON OUTLINE
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The Book of 1 Timothy Series # 13

I TIMOTHY 4:12-16

In our last message, we examined **verses 6-11** and noted the first seven of twelve characteristics of spiritual leaders found here in this chapter. Allow me to review those first seven briefly and then we will plunge in to the final five.

- ◆ **FIRST:** we learned that spiritual leaders are **TEACHERS OF THE WORD V-6.**
- ◆ **SECOND:** spiritual leaders are also committed to **STUDYING THE WORD**, they are “**nourished in the words of faith**” and of “**good Doctrine**” (v.6b).
- ◆ **THIRD:** spiritual leaders are people of **PRAYER** because you can’t be “**nourished**” in the Word without a strong life of prayer.
- ◆ **FOURTH:** spiritual leaders **REJECT FOOLISHNESS.** They “**reject profane and old wives’ fables**” (v.7a).
- ◆ **FIFTH:** spiritual leaders **BUILD SPIRITUAL MUSCLE.** They “**exercise**” or *gymnasticize* themselves “**toward godliness**”, which is an attitude of reverence, it is taking God seriously **Vs.8-9.**
- ◆ **SIXTH:** spiritual leaders **WORK HARD.** They “**labor**” and agonize over their work **V-10.**
- ◆ **SEVENTH:** spiritual leaders **EXERCISE BIBLICAL AUTHORITY.** Because of the authority of the Scripture they study and apply, they can “**command**” and “**teach**” with confidence **V-11.**

Now we look at the last five characteristics of How to be a Spiritual Leader.

I. A SPIRITUAL LEADER SETS THE EXAMPLE (v.12).

That word “**Example**” means “**pattern**” or “**model**” and Paul now gives six specific areas in which spiritual leaders are to strive to set a godly example.

- * **Be an Example in Word (Speech)**
- * **Be an Example in Conduct (conversation)**
- * **Be an Example in Love (charity)**
- * **Be an Example in Spirit**
- * **Be an Example in Faith**
- * **Be an Example in Purity**

II. A SPIRITUAL LEADER IS THOROUGHLY BIBLICAL (v.13).

Paul says, “**Till I come, give attention to reading, to exhortation, to doctrine.**”

- * **First,** Timothy was to “*give attention to reading V-13.*” The public reading of God’s Word is what he is talking about.
- * **Second,** Timothy was to “*give attention... to exhortation.*” “**Exhortation**” literally means “*encouragement*”
- * **Third,** Timothy was to “*give attention... to doctrine.*” “**Doctrine**” means “*teaching*”.

III. A SPIRITUAL LEADER USES HIS GIFTS (v.14).

IV. A SPIRITUAL LEADER FOCUSES ON MINISTRY (v.15).

“**Meditate**” carries the idea of pondering over and planning something.

V. A SPIRITUAL LEADER LIVES CAREFULLY (v.16).

Paul says finally, “**Take heed to yourself and to the doctrine.**” (V-16) Which reminds us of Paul’s words to the Ephesian elders in **Acts 20:28.** To “**take heed... to the doctrine**” means to pay attention to what you think and what you teach. Guard your mind for the devil will certainly attack you there.

When you “**take heed to yourself and to the doctrine**” you evidence that you are a genuine believer and you will call your hearers to faith in Christ too.