

LEAD BY EXAMPLE

1 Timothy 4:7-16

► **Godliness doesn't just happen.**

1 Timothy 4:7, Ephesians 4:17, Hebrews 5:11-14, Colossians 2:6-7

Godliness = Having the character and attitude of God.

► **Godliness is the only thing that lasts.**

1 Timothy 4:8-10, Matthew 6:19, James 4:13-17, James 5:3

► **Godliness will cost you something.**

1 Timothy 4:15-16, Matthew 25:14-30, Matthew 16:24, Luke 14:33, Philippians 3:8

To run well you have to:

Eat well:

Focus well:

Train well:

FIVE QUESTIONS TO ASK YOURSELF:

1 Timothy 4:12

- ❶ Do I want everyone to know what I said today?
- ❷ Do I want everyone to know what I did today?
- ❸ How did I treat the unlovely today?
- ❹ How did I handle my difficulties today?
- ❺ Were my motives and thoughts pure today?

► **Godliness starts with a daily decision.**

1 Timothy 4:13-14, James 2:14-19, John 12:26

Food for Thought

For the week of August 20, 2006

(Questions and Scriptures for further study)

1. We heard this week that godliness is being “God-like” or having the *character* and *attitude* of God. Yet, really knowing what that looks like can still be a bit confusing. After reading the following verses, how would you expand the definition of what godliness looks like?

Psalm 25:8

Good and upright is the Lord;
therefore he instructs sinners in his ways. [NIV]

Psalm 86:10

For you are great and do marvelous deeds;
you alone are God. [NIV]

Psalm 116:5

The Lord is gracious and righteous;
our God is full of compassion. [NIV]

Psalm 103:6-13

The Lord works righteousness
and justice for all the oppressed.
[7] He made known his ways to Moses,
his deeds to the people of Israel:
[8] The Lord is compassionate and gracious,
slow to anger, abounding in love.
[9] He will not always accuse,
nor will he harbor his anger forever;
[10] he does not treat us as our sins deserve
or repay us according to our iniquities.
[11] For as high as the heavens are above the earth,
so great is his love for those who fear him;
[12] as far as the east is from the west,
so far has he removed our transgressions from us.
[13] As a father has compassion on his children,
so the Lord has compassion on those who fear him; [NIV]

2. It's no secret that something worth much usually costs much. The same is true as we seek Jesus and strive to live out His character. As you read Matthew 26:6-10, what was the personal and relational cost of the woman's commitment to serve Jesus?

Matthew 26:6-10

While Jesus was in Bethany in the home of a man known as Simon the Leper, [7] a woman came to him with an alabaster jar of very expensive perfume, which she poured on his head as he was reclining at the table.

[8] When the disciples saw this, they were indignant. "Why this waste?" they asked. [9] "This perfume could have been sold at a high price and the money given to the poor."

[10] Aware of this, Jesus said to them, "Why are you bothering this woman? She has done a beautiful thing to me. [NIV]

What are some reasons or excuses people typically give for why the cost of godly character is too high?

Are any of the reasons you listed above potential roadblocks for you in seeking godly character?

3. How do the following verses affirm and motivate a person to know that the cost of godly character is well worth it?

2 Timothy 3:12-15

In fact, everyone who wants to live a godly life in Christ Jesus will be persecuted, [13] while evil men and impostors will go from bad to worse, deceiving and being deceived. [14] But as for you, continue in what you have learned and have become convinced of, because you know those from whom you learned it, [15] and how from infancy you have known the holy Scriptures, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus. [NIV]

2 Peter 1:5-9

For this very reason, make every effort to add to your faith goodness; and to goodness, knowledge; [6] and to knowledge, self-control; and to self-control, perseverance; and to perseverance, godliness; [7] and to godliness, brotherly kindness; and to brotherly kindness, love. [8] For if you possess these qualities in increasing measure, they will keep you from being ineffective and unproductive in your knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ. [9] But if anyone does not have them, he is nearsighted and blind, and has forgotten that he has been cleansed from his past sins. [NIV]

Hebrews 10:32-39

Remember those earlier days after you had received the light, when you stood your ground in a great contest in the face of suffering. [33] Sometimes you were publicly exposed to insult and persecution; at other times you stood side by side with those who were so treated. [34] You sympathized with those in prison and joyfully accepted the confiscation of your property, because you knew that you yourselves had better and lasting possessions.

[35] So do not throw away your confidence; it will be richly rewarded. [36] You need to persevere so that when you have done the will of God, you will receive what he has promised. [37] For in just a very little while,

"He who is coming will come and will not delay.

[38] But my righteous one will live by faith.

And if he shrinks back,

I will not be pleased with him."

[39] But we are not of those who shrink back and are destroyed, but of those who believe and are saved. [NIV]

4. At times we need to take a closer look at how we respond in various situations to really know if we're letting God's Spirit work in us to develop godly character. Looking back at the "Five questions to ask yourself" from this week's teaching, are there any you think you're doing well? Are there any that need some work? Is there someone you can ask to check how you're doing?

5. Take a moment and thank God for the love and character He has given you and ask Him to help you be more like Him.