
GODLINESS IN ACTION

1 Timothy 5:1-16

Quick Review

- Godliness doesn't **just happen**.
- Godliness is the only thing **that lasts**.
- Godliness will **cost you something**.
- Godliness starts with a **daily decision**.

Understanding A Tough Passage

1 Timothy 5:1-16

The widow's list:

Applying It To Today

Our godliness is evident in:

The way we handle **spiritual needs**.

1 Timothy 5:1, Ephesians 4:15, Matthew 18:15

The way we see and treat each other **as family**.

1 Timothy 5:1-2, 2 Corinthians 6:18, Matthew 12:50, Ephesians 2:19

The way we meet **physical needs**.

1 Timothy 5:3-16, Proverbs 29:7, James 1:27

The priority we give our **own families**.

Matthew 15:3-6, Proverbs 27:23-27, Proverbs 23:22

Guidelines for godliness:

- ___ Faithful to your spouse
- ___ Known for good deeds
- ___ Bringing up children
- ___ Showing hospitality
- ___ Washing the feet of the saints
- ___ Helping those in trouble
- ___ Devotion to good deeds

Food for Thought

For the week of August 27, 2006

(Questions and Scriptures for further study)

1. This week we learned some important lessons on how we are to communicate and interact with others. Pastor Chris encouraged us to “speak the truth in love.” Paul encouraged the believers in Ephesus to do the same thing in Ephesians 4:11-16. Check out that passage in its context, then read about Paul’s confrontation with Peter in Galatians 2:11-21. How could Paul’s rebuke of Peter still be considered loving?

Ephesians 4:11-16

It was he who gave some to be apostles, some to be prophets, some to be evangelists, and some to be pastors and teachers, [12] to prepare God's people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up [13] until we all reach unity in the faith and in the knowledge of the Son of God and become mature, attaining to the whole measure of the fullness of Christ.

[14] Then we will no longer be infants, tossed back and forth by the waves, and blown here and there by every wind of teaching and by the cunning and craftiness of men in their deceitful scheming. [15] Instead, speaking the truth in love, we will in all things grow up into him who is the Head, that is, Christ. [16] From him the whole body, joined and held together by every supporting ligament, grows and builds itself up in love, as each part does its work. [NIV]

Galatians 2:11-21

When Peter came to Antioch, I opposed him to his face, because he was clearly in the wrong. [12] Before certain men came from James, he used to eat with the Gentiles. But when they arrived, he began to draw back and separate himself from the Gentiles because he was afraid of those who belonged to the circumcision group. [13] The other Jews joined him in his hypocrisy, so that by their hypocrisy even Barnabas was led astray.

[14] When I saw that they were not acting in line with the truth of the gospel, I said to Peter in front of them all, "You are a Jew, yet you live like a Gentile and not like a Jew. How is it, then, that you force Gentiles to follow Jewish customs?"

[15] "We who are Jews by birth and not 'Gentile sinners' [16] know that a man is not justified by observing the law, but by faith in Jesus Christ. So we, too, have put our faith in Christ Jesus that we may be justified by faith in Christ and not by observing the law, because by observing the law no one will be justified.

[17] "If, while we seek to be justified in Christ, it becomes evident that we ourselves are sinners, does that mean that Christ promotes sin? Absolutely not! [18] If I rebuild what I destroyed, I prove that I am a lawbreaker. [19] For through the law I died to the law so that I might live for God. [20] I have been crucified with Christ and I no longer live, but Christ lives in me. The life I live in the body, I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me. [21] I do not set aside the grace of God, for if righteousness could be gained through the law, Christ died for nothing!" [NIV]

How do Paul's words in 1 Thessalonians 2:1-12 help us understand the balance of speaking truth in love?

1 Thessalonians 2:1-12

You know, brothers, that our visit to you was not a failure. [2] We had previously suffered and been insulted in Philippi, as you know, but with the help of our God we dared to tell you his gospel in spite of strong opposition. [3] For the appeal we make does not spring from error or impure motives, nor are we trying to trick you. [4] On the contrary, we speak as men approved by God to be entrusted with the gospel. We are not trying to please men but God, who tests our hearts. [5] You know we never used flattery, nor did we put on a mask to cover up greed--God is our witness. [6] We were not looking for praise from men, not from you or anyone else.

As apostles of Christ we could have been a burden to you, [7] but we were gentle among you, like a mother caring for her little children. [8] We loved you so much that we were delighted to share with you not only the gospel of God but our lives as well, because you had become so dear to us. [9] Surely you remember, brothers, our toil and hardship; we worked night and day in order not to be a burden to anyone while we preached the gospel of God to you.

[10] You are witnesses, and so is God, of how holy, righteous and blameless we were among you who believed. [11] For you know that we dealt with each of you as a father deals with his own children, [12] encouraging, comforting and urging you to live lives worthy of God, who calls you into his kingdom and glory. [NIV]

2. There can be times when others "speak truth" to each of us. Proverbs has a lot to say about how we respond to those "rebukes." Read the following verses and make a list of some of the benefits of accepting rebukes as well as the dangers of ignoring them.

Proverbs 1:20-33

Wisdom calls aloud in the street,
she raises her voice in the public squares;
[21] at the head of the noisy streets she cries out,
in the gateways of the city she makes her speech:
[22] "How long will you simple ones love your simple ways?
How long will mockers delight in mockery
and fools hate knowledge?
[23] If you had responded to my rebuke,
I would have poured out my heart to you
and made my thoughts known to you.
[24] But since you rejected me when I called
and no one gave heed when I stretched out my hand,
[25] since you ignored all my advice
and would not accept my rebuke,
[26] I in turn will laugh at your disaster;
I will mock when calamity overtakes you--
[27] when calamity overtakes you like a storm,
when disaster sweeps over you like a whirlwind,
when distress and trouble overwhelm you.
[28] "Then they will call to me but I will not answer;

they will look for me but will not find me.
[29] Since they hated knowledge
and did not choose to fear the Lord,
[30] since they would not accept my advice
and spurned my rebuke,
[31] they will eat the fruit of their ways
and be filled with the fruit of their schemes.
[32] For the waywardness of the simple will kill them,
and the complacency of fools will destroy them;
[33] but whoever listens to me will live in safety
and be at ease, without fear of harm." [NIV]

Proverbs 3:11-12

My son, do not despise the Lord's discipline
and do not resent his rebuke,
[12] because the Lord disciplines those he loves,
as a father the son he delights in. [NIV]

Proverbs 15:31-32

He who listens to a life-giving rebuke
will be at home among the wise.
[32] He who ignores discipline despises himself,
but whoever heeds correction gains understanding. [NIV]

Proverbs 19:25

Flog a mocker, and the simple will learn prudence;
rebuke a discerning man, and he will gain knowledge. [NIV]

3. This week's teaching encouraged us to be absolutely pure in the midst of a culture that is full of temptation. King Solomon gave his son some wise advice to help him avoid sexual temptation. What are the specific temptations that Solomon points out in Proverbs 7? (Note: Proverbs 5 & 6 shed more wisdom on this topic.)

What other temptations from modern culture could be added to this list?

How could you use Psalm 119:9-11 to help you stay pure?

Psalm 119:9-11

How can a young man keep his way pure?
By living according to your word.
[10] I seek you with all my heart;
do not let me stray from your commands.
[11] I have hidden your word in my heart
that I might not sin against you. [NIV]

4. This week's passage in 1 Timothy made it clear that we have the responsibility to love and take care of our family. Take a few minutes to think about and pray for your family. Ask God to show you if there is any way you could be more loving, or any needs that you could work toward meeting.