

THE NEXT GENERATION OF LEADERS

Midwest City Free Methodist Church

Last Words

I. Beware of False Teachers-1 Timothy 6:3-5

A. False Teachers are Conceited

1. They do not agree to sound instruction-orthodox faith
2. They do not understand the Gospel of Jesus Christ-orthodox way
 - a. Christ has died-statement of love
 - b. Christ is risen-statement of faith
 - c. Christ will come again-statement of hope
 - d. Jesus is Lord-response to the Gospel

B. False Teachers Have Unhealthy Interests

1. They promote controversies and quarrels-*Mandata Dei us Deum Mandantem*
2. They disturb the peace with their words-envy, strife, malicious talk, evil suspicions, constant friction

C. False Teachers Commercialize Religion

1. They rob the truth for the sake of money-abuse the church
2. They use godliness for financial gain-abuse themselves

II. Contentment-1 Timothy 6:7-10

A. Godliness with Contentment is Great Gain

1. Learn to live by simple faith-*needs/wants*
2. Learn to be content with what we have-*balanced priorities*

B. Greed is a Root of Evil

1. The desire for money is insatiable-never enough
2. The desire for money is an illusion-false security
3. The desire for money makes people selfish
4. The desire for money brings anxiety-*either you control money or money controls you*

III. Confession of Faith-1 Timothy 6:11-16

IV. Final Commands-1 Timothy 6:17-21

A. To the Rich in this Present World

1. Do not be arrogant
2. Do not put your hope in wealth
3. Do good-rich in deeds
4. Be generous and willing to share
5. Lay-up a treasure in heaven-true life

B. To Timothy

1. Guard your church and your ministry
2. Turn away from godless chatter-yak, yak, yak
3. Turn away from false knowledge-leads away from God
4. Cling to God's grace

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Practical Christianity

I. Ordained Ministers

A. Scriptural Directions-*1 Timothy 5:17-20*

1. Direct the affairs of the church-double honor
2. Minister through preaching and teaching
3. Speak well of the elders and leaders
4. Rebuke them publicly if they fall into sin

B. Historical Interpretations

1. Elders are ordained by the church and/or church leaders-*set apart*
2. Elders are held accountable by church/ church leaders-*under authority*

C. Free Methodist Applications

1. Local Minister's License-entry level for the call to ministry
2. Conference Ministerial Candidate- accountable to the conference Ministerial Education and Guidance Board
3. Elders-in full relationship with the conference

II. Ordained Ministry

A. Practical Instructions-*1 Timothy 5:21-22*

1. Keep the scriptural instructions without partiality-standards in the church
2. Do nothing out of favoritism-respect everyone
3. Do not be hasty in laying on of hands-test everyone
4. Do not share in the sins of others-protect your witness
5. Keep yourself pure-holy living

B. Personal Instructions-*1 Timothy 5:23*

Stop drinking only water, and use a little wine because of your stomach and your frequent illness.

C. Practical Christianity-*1 Timothy 5:24-25*

1. Obvious Sinners-public sins leading to disaster and punishment
2. Secret Sinners-private sins veiled in hypocrisy⁶
3. Practical Saints-goods deeds reflect the grace of God

A good tree cannot bear bad fruit, and a bad tree cannot bear good fruit. Every tree that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire. Thus, by their fruit you will recognize them.

Matthew 7:18-20

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True Worshipers

I. Next Generation Leadership

A. **Principles: Balanced Spirituality, Grace-filled Living & Faithful Witness**

B. **Principle #4 Authentic Worship**

1. Learning to respond to the grace of God
2. Learning to acknowledge the worth of God

II. True Worship

A. The Apostle Paul on Orderly Worship-*1 Timothy 2*

1. The place of Intercession: requests, prayers, petition and thanksgiving
2. The place of Community: peaceful, quiet, godly and holy
3. The place of Evangelism: everyone coming to the knowledge of the truth
4. The place of Leadership: herald, apostle and teacher
5. The place for Men: lifting holy hands in prayer
6. The place for Women: professing holy faith and holy deeds
7. The place for Relationships: under the authority of Christ

The Church in Ephesus and temporary restrictions of women

B. Elements of Worship

1. **Singing** (*Psalms 98*)-Worship God with our emotions
Singing includes praise, thanksgiving, music, clapping, shouting, dancing, hymns, choruses, chanting, psalms, anthems, and creeds
2. **Preaching** (*1 Corinthians 2:1-6*)-Worship God with our minds.
Preaching includes teaching, witnessing, spiritual reading (OT, NT, Gospel and Epistles), messages, homilies, praise reports, sharing and instruction
3. **Breaking the Bread** (*John 6:53-59*)- Worship God with our bodies.
Breaking bread includes communion, the Lord's Supper, The Last Supper, Mass, Eucharist, the table of the Lord, Seder, Passover, Sacraments, mystery, confession, examination, bread and wine, bread and cup, the common loaf, the common cup, holiness, remembrance, Sanctus, thanksgiving, pardon, the body and the blood of Christ
4. **Praying** (*Matthew 6: 5-15*)-Worship God with our hearts.
Praying includes adoration, confession, contemplation, silence, responses, corporate, written, spontaneous, examination, healing, deliverance, salvation, blessing, sanctification, petition, requests, illumination, revelation, faith, trinity, Father, Son, Holy Spirit and veneration
5. **Giving** (*2 Corinthians 9:6-15*)-Worship God with our possessions.
Giving includes offerings, tithes, gifts, alms, service, stewardship and sacrifices
6. **Blessing** (*Romans 12:9-21*)- Worship God with our actions.
Blessings include service, prayer, evangelism, discipleship, ministry, commission, finding faith, reconciliation, suffering, sacrifice, persecution and response

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Fight the Good Fight

I. Chosen by God *v. 18*

A. Word of Prophecy

1. God reveals His will to His servants the prophets-*Amos 3:7*
2. God uses prophets to motivate the church-*Acts 13:1-3*
3. Prophecy-Greek *propheteia* means revealing, manifesting, making known, speaking out- 1 Corinthians 12:10
 - a. Authentic prophecy is forthtelling, not foretelling
 - b. Authentic prophecy like all gifts is motivated by love

B. Godly Name

+ Timothy-Greek *Timotheos*-honoring God

C. An Entrusted Charge-Eugene A. Peterson

1. The pastoral work of prayer-directing
2. The pastoral work of story-making
3. The pastoral work of pain-sharing
4. The pastoral work of nay-saying
5. The pastoral work of community-building

II. Being Faithful

A. Life-long Campaign-two weapons *vv. 18-19*

1. Faith-rightness of cause and triumph of God
2. Good conscience-orthodoxy and orthoproxy

B. Ship-wrecked Faith-rejecting God *vv. 19-20*

1. Some reject the guidance of conscience
2. Some reject holy living and holy faith
3. Some reject right teaching

C. Handed over to Satan *v. 20*

1. Excommunication- public rebuke for 30 days- Jewish tradition
2. Barred from the church-dividing line for the world
3. Painful visitation by Satan-*Acts 13:11*

III. Next Generation Leadership

A. Principle #1 **Balanced Spirituality**

B. Principle #2 **Grace-filled Living**

C. Principle #3 **Faithful Witness**

1. Learning to conform our lives to God's Word
2. Learning to live in the tension of light and darkness
3. Learning to finish what we have started

THE NEXT GENERATION OF LEADERS

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Confessions of Faith

I. Next Generation of Leaders

A. Principles – *1 Timothy 1:1-2: 15*

1. Balanced Spirituality – walking with God by faith; walking with people by love
2. Grace-filled Living – receiving and giving the mercy of God
3. Faithful Witness – living in the tension of light and darkness
4. Authentic Worship – responding to the grace of God

B. Prerequisites – *1 Timothy 3:1-13*

C. Pieties – Confessions of Faith—*1 Timothy 3:14-16; 6:11-16*

1. The Mystery of Godliness

*He appeared in a body,
Was vindicated by the Spirit,
Was seen by angels,
Was preached among the nations,
Was believed on in the world,
Was taken up in glory.*

<h5>2. The Almighty God</h5> <p><i>God, the blessed and only ruler, The King of Kings and Lord of Lords, Who alone is immortal and who lives in unapproachable light, Whom no one has seen or can see, To Him be honor and might forever.</i></p>

D. Other Scriptural Creeds

1. Living with Jesus Christ – *2 Timothy 2:11-13*
2. The Attitude of Jesus Christ – *Philippians 2:6-11*
3. Jesus is Lord – *Romans 10:9*

II. Confessions and Creeds

A. Why confessions and creeds?

1. Doctrine – confessing the faith and keeping the faith
2. Discipleship – passing on the faith to the next generation

B. Where does our doctrine come from?

1. Holy Scripture – Old and New Testaments
2. Hymnals – songs and hymns of the faith
3. Creeds – historical confessions of faith
 - a. Apostles Creed, c. 100 AD
 - b. Nicene Creed, c. 325 AD
 - c. Gallian Creed, c. 503 AD
 - d. Short Catechism, c. 1529
4. Theology Books, ie John Calvin, *Institutes of Christian Religion*
5. Liturgy and Prayers
 - a. The Lord's Prayer
 - b. The Great Thanksgiving
 - c. Weddings / Funerals / Baptisms / Dedications
6. Confessions of Faith
 - a. *Christ has died, Christ is risen, Christ will come again*
 - b. *Lord Jesus have mercy on me a sinner*
 - c. I believe _____

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Spiritual Leadership

I. Next Generation Leadership

A. Principles

1. **Balanced Spirituality** – walking with God by faith; walking with people by love
2. **Grace-filled Living** – receiving mercy from God
3. **Faithful Witness** – living in the tension of light and darkness
4. **Authentic Worship** – responding to the grace of God

B. Preparation

1. Open Ears – ready to listen to the Holy Spirit
2. Open Hearts – ready to give and receive the love of God
3. Open Hands – ready to care and to serve for the last, least and lost

II. Pauline Requisites to Leadership – *1 Timothy 3:2-7*

A. Social Qualifications

1. Above reproach – open and transparent
2. Good reputation – high ideals exemplified in words and actions

B. Moral Qualifications

1. Monogamist – faithful in marital relationship
2. Temperate – not disorderly or disgraceful; balance in spiritual and natural actions

C. Mental Qualifications

1. Prudent – well-balanced state of mind; self-restrained and self-controlled
2. Respectable – well-ordered life; inspirational and admirable; trustworthy
3. Teachable – desire to learn and be led by God; able to listen to others
4. Hospitable – friend to strangers; servant attitude; willing to get involved

D. Personality Qualifications

1. Frugal – living life within reason and balance
2. Gentle – learning to remember the good rather than the evil; kind and compassionate
3. Not Quarrelsome – learning to keep mouth shut; not easily angered
4. Not Greedy – financial reward of no consideration

E. Maturity Qualifications

1. Family Mentor – managing the family's spiritual, emotional, financial & physical needs
2. Spiritual Mentor – not a new convert; with experience, wisdom and discernment
3. Relationship Builder – able to reach out to unbelievers and live in their midst

III. Spiritual Inventory

- A. Assessment of needs and/ or situation — what is needed?
- B. Assets on hand — who is already available?
- C. Ability of candidates – who is able?
- D. Attitude of candidates – who is willing?
- E. Accomplishments of candidates – who gets things done?

Now to him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to his power that is at work within us, to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, for ever and ever! Amen. Ephesians 3:20-21

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Sound Doctrine

I. Introduction to the Pastoral Epistle

A. Personal Letters: *1 and 2 Timothy, Titus and Philemon*

1. References 54 proper names of people and places
2. Full of intimate, loving details – *I Timothy 5:23* and *II Timothy 4*

B. Ecclesiastical Letters

1. Concerned with church orders and pastoral care
2. Gives instruction on doctrine, relationships, worship, leadership and godliness

C. Holistic Letters

1. Salvation – forgiveness in Jesus Christ – *I Timothy 1:15*
2. Leadership – noble and honorable ambition – *I Timothy 3:1*
3. Sanctification – renewal and regeneration through the Spirit – *Titus 3:4-8*
4. Suffering – commitment, obedience and loyalty to the cross – *II Timothy 2:11-13*
5. Discipline – spiritual exercise and training – *I Timothy 4:7-9*

II. Sound Doctrine – *I Timothy 1:1-11*

A. Avoid False Doctrines

1. Includes myths and endless genealogies – vv.3-4
2. Promotes controversies, backsliding and meaningless talk – vv.6-7

B. Avoid False Living

- | | |
|------------------------|-------------------|
| 1. Lawbreakers | 8. Murders |
| 2. Rebels | 9. Adulterers |
| 3. Ungodly | 10. Perverts |
| 4. Sinful | 11. Slave traders |
| 5. Unholy | 12. Liars |
| 6. Irreligious | 13. Perjurers |
| 7. Shame their parents | |

Whatever else is contrary to sound doctrine (healthy living)

C. Embrace God's work

1. Based on faith – taking God at his word
 - a. That is Jesus Christ is the full revelation of God
 - b. That the Word of God is inspired
2. Motivated by Love – goal of our faith
 - a. Loving God with heart, mind, soul and strength
 - b. Loving our neighbors – those around us
 - c. Loving ourselves – in the image of God

III. Next Generation Leadership

A. Principle #1 – Balanced Spirituality

1. Starting a spiritual journey – walking with God by faith
2. Practicing spiritual discipline – training for godliness
3. Sharing the journey with others – affirmation and encouragement

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Abundant Grace

I. Introduction to the Grace of God – Wesleyan Theology

A. Prevenient Grace – awakened by the Holy Spirit

1. The Holy Spirit quickens the conscience – hunger for God
2. The Holy Spirit draws the person into the fellowship of believers
3. The Holy Spirit sends people to share the good news

B. Justifying Grace – convicted by the Holy Spirit

1. The person is converted by faith and repentance
2. The person receives grace and mercy
3. The Holy Spirit regenerates and instructs the new believer

C. Sanctifying Grace – consecrated by the Holy Spirit

1. The Holy Spirit transforms the life of the believer
2. The believer is moved from grace to grace; glory to glory
3. The believer grows in love

II. Abundant Grace – *1 Timothy 1:12-17*

A. Giving Thanks for the Grace – vv.12-14

1. Paul thanked God for choosing him – brought him out of darkness
2. Paul thanked God for trusting him – shared the kingdom with him
3. Paul thanked God for appointing him – made him an apostle and servant
4. Paul thanked God for empowering him – strengthened him

B. Receiving Mercy – vv.15-16

1. Jesus Christ forgives sins – power of God
2. Jesus Christ changes lives – mercy of God
3. Jesus Christ gives eternal life – reward of God

C. Praising God – v.17

1. Jesus Christ is King – eternal, immortal, invisible
2. Jesus Christ is God – honor, glory, forever

III. Next Generation Leadership

A. Principle #1 – **Balanced Spirituality**

B. Principle #2 – **Grace-filled Living**

1. Learning to receive from God – His grace and mercy
2. Learning not to be directed by the Holy Spirit
3. Learning to give the credit to Jesus Christ

“Our progress in holiness depends on God and ourselves—on God’s grace and on our will to be holy. We must have a real living determination to reach holiness.”

From *A Gift From God* by Mother Teresa