

VERBATIM: Masculinity

1 Timothy 4:1-12

Read 1 Timothy 4:1-12 together:

Now the Spirit expressly says that in later times some will depart from the faith by devoting themselves to deceitful spirits and teachings of demons, through the insincerity of liars whose consciences are seared, who forbid marriage and require abstinence from foods that God created to be received with thanksgiving by those who believe and know the truth. For everything created by God is good, and nothing is to be rejected if it is received with thanksgiving, for it is made holy by the word of God and prayer. If you put these things before the brothers, you will be a good servant of Christ Jesus, being trained in the words of the faith and of the good doctrine that you have followed. Have nothing to do with irreverent, silly myths. Rather train yourself for godliness; for while bodily training is of some value, godliness is of value in every way, as it holds promise for the present life and also for the life to come. The saying is trustworthy and deserving of full acceptance. For to this end, we toil and strive, because we have our hope set on the living God, who is the Savior of all people, especially of those who believe. Command and teach these things. Let no one despise you for your youth, but set the believers an example in speech, in conduct, in love, in faith, in purity.

Context:

We are living in a world that cries out against masculinity. Masculinity is seen as the epicenter of oppression. According to our world, it is masculinity that subjugates women and children. It is men who have wrongly dominated and suppressed all others for far too long.

- ? Is there any truth to what the world says about men and masculinity?
- ? If so, what do you believe is true?

It is not the initial assessment of the state of manhood and masculinity that is wrong; the underlying assumptions and the subsequent solutions are unbiblical and require the wisdom of God.

- ? What does creation teach us about Adam and Eve? Were they both created in the image of God?
- ? What does the equality of our image-bearing teach us about the value God places on men and women?

The Bible unashamedly portrays the beauty of God's creation of both males and females. God created males and females in his image. Therefore, all of humanity is equal in dignity and value.

Content:

The Bible also teaches that God has assigned varied roles and responsibilities to males and females. Men have been assigned the responsibility to protect and provide for their families: physically, emotionally, and spiritually.

The Apostle Paul urges Timothy to train himself for godliness. Let's dig into this passage and consider these vital areas in which men need to be trained.

Trained Speech

Read Ephesians 4:32. Men of God must train their speech.

- ? Think of a situation that forced you to decide to either speak with kindness or with harshness. Share what happened, how you responded with your speech, and how things progressed.
- ? What is the source of our speech?
- ? Can you share a verse that you have found helpful in training your speech?

A word can heal, lift, strengthen, devastate, wound, or dismember. Your speech can either beautify or deface, encourage or shame.

Trained Conduct

Timothy had a front-row seat to the life of the Apostle Paul. Yes, Paul encouraged Timothy to follow in his footsteps! Timothy had the opportunity to observe Paul's life, and Paul told him that he ought to continue in what he had learned (see 2 Timothy 3:10-15).

- ? How many of us would dare to say, in all humility like Paul, "*Watch me and follow me!*"? Yet, that should be our goal as parents, teachers, mentors, etc.
- ? What virtues can we model at home in front of our children?
- ? How can we model these virtues?

Trained Love

Train yourself to value and pursue the greatest, most lasting depth of influence: love. This is not a "check the box" effort. This is not "one and done." This requires an ongoing, recurring, demanding, focused effort over time to accomplish.

- ? How can we model love in our marriage?
- ? How can we model love to our neighbors?
- ? How can we model love to strangers, the homeless, and the underprivileged?

Trained Faith

We can never forget the gospel. We need to preach the gospel to ourselves every day.

- ? Are you daily amazed at the grace of God?

? Do you have an active trust that recognizes your weaknesses and your need for grace?

? Are you anchored in the reality of Jesus' death, burial, resurrection, and ascension?

Trained Purity

Paul finishes his discourse to Timothy to remind him of the need to be trained in purity. In 1 Timothy 5, Paul instructs Timothy to treat older women as mothers and younger women as sisters.

? When done appropriately in the Church, how does it look to treat older women as mothers?

? How does it look to treat younger women as sisters?