
AN INSPIRING CALL TO YOUNG CHRISTIANS

1 TIMOTHY 4:11-16



Young Christians can sometimes be too brash (the church needs me so much) or too bashful (I'm too young to be useful). Timothy was on the bashful side of things. He was hesitant and reluctant to step up, to serve, to shepherd. He was slow, shy, and scared about what people would think if he was too forward.

If that's you, the Apostle Paul has some stirring, encouraging, challenging, and motivating words for you in 1 Timothy 4:11-16. You can be an inspiring example to others

- **YOUNG CHRISTIANS CAN BE EXEMPLARY CHRISTIANS**
 - **YOUNG CHRISTIANS CAN BE EXEMPLARY TEACHERS**
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LEARNING

YOUNG CHRISTIANS CAN BE EXEMPLARY CHRISTIANS

Older people tend to look down on the young. They don't ask them for advice, they don't listen to their voices, they reject their opinions. But that shouldn't happen in the church. **Command and teach these things. Let no one despise you for your youth (11-12)**, Paul says to Timothy who was about 20 years old.

Now, of course, we can't stop people doing this, but we can avoid giving a reason for it and we can resist being swayed or intimidated by it.

Set the believers an example in speech, in conduct, in love, in faith, in purity (12). Be an exemplary and outstanding Christian. Work towards well-rounded spiritual maturity in every area of Christian character. Christian usefulness starts with Christian character.

THE YOUNG CAN BE SPIRITUAL ADULTS
AND THE OLD CAN BE SPIRITUAL BABIES.

"But what can I do?" You might be surprised!

YOUNG CHRISTIANS CAN BE EXEMPLARY TEACHERS

Paul says, **Until I come, devote yourself to the public reading of Scripture, to exhortation, to teaching. Do not neglect the gift you have, which was given you by prophecy when the council of elders laid their hands on you (13-14)**.

Paul sees God-given teaching gifts in Timothy which were confirmed when he was installed as the young pastor of Ephesus church. But they are there in seed form not fully grown. Therefore, he urges Timothy, **practice these things, immerse yourself in them, so that all may see your progress (15)**. Practice, immerse, progress; practice, immerse, progress. Be an example in the cultivation of grace and gifts, whatever your gift may be.

Paul closes with a challenge and an encouragement. **Keep a close watch on yourself and on the teaching. Persist in this, for by so doing you will save both yourself and your hearers (16)**. While inspiring others, remember to take care of your own spirituality. Don't get so focused on being a good example that you become a bad example. Keep your heart close to God and your teaching close to God's Word. **Persist in this**, never stop doing this, because a bad example destroys souls, but a good example saves souls.

WATCH YOUR HEART AND YOUR HEAD
IF YOU WANT TO GIVE A HAND TO OTHERS.

LOVING

Don't you just love the way God encourages young people. Old Christians sometimes tell young Christians to sit down, but God says, "Stand up and stand out!" God's love for young Christians shines through Paul's love for young Timothy.

LIVING

If we're old, let's never be discouraging despisers of the young. Whatever our age, let's be an encouraging example in grace and gifts and we'll energize others to be the same. A good example can be far more infectious than COVID-19.
