

Discipline

CONSISTENCY: "The Spirit clearly says that in the later times some will abandon the faith and follow deceiving spirits and things taught by demons. Such teachings come through hypocritical liars, whose consciences have been seared as with a hot iron" **(1 Timothy 4:1-2)**

- By consistency in our devotions and our fellowship, we demonstrate consistency in our lives. Our children learn most by seeing what we do. If we practice consistency, they will learn consistency. By being consistent in our lives, we will be consistent in what we are teaching our children. Consistency eliminates confusion

BEING REASONABLE: "They forbid people to marry and order them to abstain from certain foods, which God created to be received with thanksgiving by those who believe and who know the truth" **(1 Timothy 4:3)**

- How many times have we made unreasonable demands on our children. "Make your bed. No, you left the sheet wrinkled in the corner." "Sweep the garage floor. No, you left some dirt in the corners." "Clean the dinner dishes from the table. No, you left some food crumbs on the floor." UNREASONABLE? Children are children and not miniature adults. They must be treated as children.

THANKFULNESS OF GOD'S GOODNESS: "For everything God created is good, and nothing is to be rejected if it is received with thanksgiving" **(1 Timothy 4:4)**

- Just as we were urged as children to say "thank you" for those Christmas gifts, we are urged as parents to say "thank you" to God for the gift of our children. And the best time to thank God, is in the presence of our children.

CONSECRATION: "because it is consecrated by the word of God and prayer." **(1 Timothy 4:5)**

- Consecrating our children to God means watching over them and caring for them, making sure they grow. Our children are like sponges. If we don't fill them with Godly things, the world will fill them with worldly things.

MINISTERING: “If you point these things out to the brothers, you will be a good minister of Christ Jesus, brought up in the truths of the faith and of the good teaching that you have followed. **(1 Timothy 4:6)**

- Parents are representatives of God. And as such, we are to hold power and authority over our children and we are to render them aid. But to be good ministers of Christ, parents must practice the teachings of God’s word.

TRUTH: “Have nothing to do with godless myths and old wives’ tales; rather, train yourself to be godly.” **(1 Timothy 4:7)**

- If we don’t know the truth, how can we tell the truth to our children? Parents are to be trustworthy to their children. In order to be trustworthy, we, as parents must know the truth.

PRIORITIES: “For physical training is of some value, but godliness has value for all things, holding promise for both the present life and the life to come.” **(1 Timothy 4:8)**

- There may be occasions when our children will miss church on Sunday. But when we put sports over the Sabbath for the entire season, we don’t have our priorities straight.

MODEL: “This is a trustworthy saying that deserves full acceptance (and for this we labor and strive), that we have put our hope in the living God, who is the Savior of all men, and especially of those who believe.” **(1 Timothy 4:9-10)**

- Who was your model when you were growing up? What was the favorable characteristic about that older adult that made you look up to them? It was probably the true spirit of God’s love that you felt whenever you were around them. That is what we are to model to our children.

INSTRUCTION: “Command and teach these things.” **(1 Timothy 4:11)**

- With each task that we give our children, we should also give them instructions, and time for the learning curve. And each unsuccessful step of the learning curve should be followed with encouragement and each successful step should be followed with praise.

RESPECT: "Don't let anyone look down on you because you are young, but set an example for the believers in speech, in life, in love, in faith and in purity. Until I come, devote yourself to the public reading of Scripture, to preaching and to teaching." **(1 Timothy 4:12-13)**

- Children need to be taught not only to respect, but to be respected. Each child will have to establish their own respect. Respect is earned by faith and purity in how they talk, live, and love.

GIFT NOURISHMENT: "Do not neglect your gift, which was given you through a prophetic message when the body of elders laid their hands on you." **(1 Timothy 4:14)**

- Each of our children is given special gifts. We, as parents, must seek out those talents and help our children nourish them to their fullest. Many children fail miserably in adulthood because the parents wanted their own failed dreams to be lived through the child.

GROWTH: "Be diligent in these matters; give yourself wholly to them, so that everyone may see your progress." **(1 Timothy 4:15)**

- As parents, we must give ourselves wholly and unselfishly to our children, and everyone will see our progress. We will look on with great pride to the young lady or young man that we have helped develop into responsible, God loving adults.

PERSEVERE: "Watch your life and doctrine closely. Persevere in them, because if you do, you will save both yourself and your hearers." **(1 Timothy 4:16)**

- We must persevere in the life we live and what we teach. How we live and what we teach must be compatible. If we do not persevere, the world will take the gifts that God has given us.

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