



WEEK 2 - BE AN EXAMPLE TO ALL BELIEVERS

OVERVIEW

The problem with continuing the work someone else has started is that it is always easy to doubt oneself and one's abilities in comparison. Timothy must have struggled with feeling like a far lesser leader than the famous Apostle Paul, and undoubtedly many in Ephesus agreed with this assessment by questioning his abilities! Because of this, Paul encourages Timothy to ignore the haters and instead to focus on what will make him a strong leader – his life, his love, his faith, and his purity.

As we remember the 30th anniversary of Grace, it is very easy to compare today's circumstances with many of the high points from years past and feel insignificant in comparison. But Paul's encouragement to Timothy still rings true today. We must focus our energies not on living up to others' expectations, but on becoming examples to all believers in the way we live out our faith. We must not neglect the gifts God has given us!

Don't let anyone think less of you because you are young. Be an example to all believers in what you say, in the way you live, in your love, your faith, and your purity.

1 Timothy 4:12

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. What is one thing God has done at Grace over the last 30 years that you are in awe of?
2. Read 1 Timothy 4:6-10. How have you "trained yourself to be godly" over the years?
3. Read 1 Timothy 4:11-16. Have you experienced a time when someone thought less of you because you were young? Share the story with your group. How did that make you feel? How did you move past that time?
4. Barry suggested four ways that we can train for godliness. If the people of Grace were living as examples as Paul encouraged Timothy to do, what would be the evidence of this? What does it look like to:
 - a. Be an example of genuine faith?
 - b. Stand on the Word of God?
 - c. Live into your gifts?
 - d. Remember your calling?

RESOURCES

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