

“Let No Man Despise Thy Youth”

1 Timothy 4:12

“Let No Man Despise Thy Youth”

- Two things commanded.
 - *“Let no man despise thy youth.”*
 - *“Be thou an ensample to them that believe.” (ASV)*

Be An Example Of A Christian

- What is a Christian?
 - A disciple. (Acts 11:26)
 - A persuaded person. (Acts 26:24; John 20:30-31)
 - One willing to suffer in order to glorify. (1 Peter 4:16)

The Power Of A Good Example

Commands respect in spite of youthfulness.

- Joseph. Genesis 37:2 (17 when sold to Potiphar; cf. Genesis 39:12)
- David. 1 Samuel 17:33 (*“but a youth”* – Defeated Goliath.)
- Josiah. 2 Chronicles 34
 - 16 – sought to serve God. (2 Chronicles 34:1-3)
 - 20 – Instituted religious reforms. (2 Chronicles 34:3)
 - 26 – Restored the temple and the Passover. (2 Chronicles 34:8; 35:18-19)

The Power Of A Good Example

Commands respect in spite of youthfulness.

- Daniel – Daniel 1:3-5
 - Possibly 12-15 when taken into Babylonian captivity.
 - Possibly 15-18 when brought to Nebuchadnezzar to serve as his counselor.
- Timothy – Acts 16:1-5
 - Selected by Paul to join him in preaching.
 - 20 years later, Paul tells him, *“Let no man despise thy youth.”*

The Power Of A Good Example

Is based on consistency of life. (1 Timothy 4:16)

- In speech... *“In word.”*
 - Speech reveals our heart. (Matthew 12:34-37)
 - Christian must guard his tongue. (Ephesians 4:29; Colossians 4:6)

The Power Of A Good Example

The Old Testament addressed this subject many times.

1. *"The tongue of the righteous is as choice silver" (Proverbs 10:20).*
2. David prayed, *"Set a watch, O Jehovah, before my mouth; Keep the door of my lips" (Psalms 141:3).*
3. *"Whoso keepeth his mouth and his tongue keepeth his soul from troubles" (Proverbs 21:23).*
4. *"A word fitly spoken is like apples of gold in network of silver" (Proverbs 25:11).*

The Power Of A Good Example

The Old Testament addressed this subject many times.

5. *"In the multitude of words there wanteth not transgression; but he that refraineth his lips doeth wisely" (Proverbs 10:19).*
6. *"He that guardeth his mouth keepeth his life; but he that openeth wide his lips shall have destruction" (Proverbs 13:3).*
7. *"Seest thou a man that is hasty in his words? There is more hope of a fool than of him" (Proverbs 29:20).*

The Power Of A Good Example

The Old Testament addressed this subject many times.

8. *"A soft answer turneth away wrath; but a grievous word stirreth up anger" (Proverbs 15:1).*
9. *"Death and life are in the power of the tongue" (Proverbs 18:21).*

The Power Of A Good Example

Is based on consistency of life.

- In behavior – *"In manner of life."* (1 Timothy 4:7-12)
 - Not like the hypocrites. *Titus 1:16 "They profess that they know God; but by their works they deny Him."*
 - Grace came teaching us how to live. (Titus 2:11-12)
 - We are constantly making impressions, good or bad. (Matthew 5:13-16)

The Power Of A Good Example

Is based on consistency of life.

- *"In love."*
 - To God. (Matthew 22:36-38) Honor God!
 - To neighbors. (Matthew 22:39; Romans 13:10)
 - To brethren. (John 13:34-35; Romans 12:10; Hebrews 13:1; 1 Peter 1:22)
 - To our spouse. (Ephesians 5:33) *"Nevertheless do ye also severally love each one his own wife even as himself; and (let) the wife (see) that she fear (reverence KJV) her husband."*

The Power Of A Good Example

Is based on consistency of life.

- *"In love."*
 - *1 Corinthians 13:4-8, "Love suffereth long, (and) is kind; love envieth not; love vaunteth not itself, is not puffed up, doth not behave itself unseemly, seeketh not its own, is not provoked, taketh not account of evil; rejoiceth not in unrighteousness, but rejoiceth with the truth; beareth all things, believeth all things, hopeth all things, endureth all things. Love never faileth..."*

The Power Of A Good Example

Is based on consistency of life.

- **"In faith."** (cf. James 2:18)
 - Daniel 3:16 Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-nego
 - Hebrews 11 Heroes of faith.

The Power Of A Good Example

Is based on consistency of life.

- **"In purity."**
 - Philippians 4:8 Pure in thought, speech and conduct.
 - 2 Timothy 2:22 *"But flee youthful lusts, and follow after righteousness, faith, love, peace, with them that call on the Lord out of a pure heart."*
 - Hebrews 13:4 *"Marriage is honorable ..."* (Proverbs 5; cf. 1 Corinthians 6:18ff; Proverbs 7; Genesis 39:12)

The Power Of A Good Example

- **1 Timothy 4:12, "Let no man despise thy youth; but be thou an ensample to them that believe, in word, in manner of life, in love, in faith, in purity."**

A Good Example Is Like "Salt" (Matthew 5:13)

- Positive –
 - Gives taste to whatever it touches. (Colossians 4:6)
 - Proverbs 14:34, *"Righteousness exalteth a nation; But sin is a reproach to any people."*
- Negative –
 - Prevents and preserves.
 - Compare the influence of at least 10 righteous people in Sodom and Gomorrah. (Genesis 18:23-33)

A Good Example Is Like "Light" (Matthew 5:14-15)

- Positive –
 - Must be seen. *"...a city that is set on a hill" which "cannot be hid."*
- Negative –
 - Light dispels darkness, they cannot co-exist. (cf. Galatians 5:24; 1 John 1:7-10)

A Good Example Has A Purpose (Matthew 5:16)

- **Matthew 5:13-16, "Ye are the salt of the earth: but if the salt have lost its savor, wherewith shall it be salted? it is thenceforth good for nothing, but to be cast out and trodden under foot of men. Ye are the light of the world. A city set on a hill cannot be hid. Neither do (men) light a lamp, and put it under the bushel, but on the stand; and it shineth unto all that are in the house. Even so let your light shine before men; that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father who is in heaven."**

Ecclesiastes 12:1ff

- Youth – the best time to begin service to the Lord.
 - *“Remember also thy Creator in the days of thy youth”*
 - Before evil habits become fixed ... *“before the evil days come”*
 - Before old age ... *“and the years draw nigh”*
 - Before years of regret ... *“when thou shalt say, I have no pleasure in them”*