

The Ten Commandments of Pastoral Ministry

1 Timothy 4:11-16

The text from this morning comes from an exhortation that Paul gives to Timothy as he pastors the church in Ephesus. It would be easy to dismiss this text as a charge to pastors, verses a call to each of us as Christ followers. The application is not limited to those in church leadership. The question is how you will use these principles in your own walk with God.

1. Do you have "expectations" for the pastors of College Park? What do you base those expectations upon? What happens when those expectations are not met?
2. What can you learn from these "10 commandments" for your own life? What stuck out to you the most from the sermon? Do you presently see any of these being lived out in your life?
3. Do you want pastors to be authoratative? What are the implications for your life if the pastors at CPC speak with authority, based on the Word of God? Are you willing to receive God's Word from a pastor as authoratative or are you resistant to this?
4. What are College Park pastors known for? What is College Park known for? What are you known for? What does God want you to be known for?
5. Does the example of your life give credibility to your witness or does it deminish your witness for Christ? What do others see in your life? Ask your group members what they think you are known for. Ask your wife/children/good friends what they think you are known for.
6. 1 Peter 1:13-23 tells us to be holy because God is holy. Take some time to read through this passage and discuss it as a group. Why is holiness so important? What makes us holy? Pray for purity for yourself and for the pastors. We live in an indulgent culture. We must intentionally and purposefully pursue purity and holiness, 1 Peter 1: 16, or the subtle and bold messages of our culture will erode our values, our beliefs and our purity. Commit to pray daily for your pastors to walk in purity.
7. What does your commitment to the Scriptures look like? What does Paul say it should look like? Should a pastor's commitment to the Scripture look differently than yours? Why or why not?
8. Are you a good steward of the gifts that God has given you? Are you investing your gifts for God's glory, or are you squandering them on selfish ambition or vain conceit? What are the gifts that God has given you?

9. What does your personal discipline look like? Are you disciplined in pursuing godliness and walking with God? How might you need to work on becoming more disciplined? What are specific things you need to be doing? What keeps you from being disciplined?
10. What are you immersed in? What consumes your greatest amount of time and attention? Are you devoted to the Word of God? You cannot be half-in. There are no time-outs or breaks. It's all encompassing, or you're not devoted. Are you in, or out?
11. How are you guarding your soul? What are the guardrails that you have in your life to be watchful and to protect your heart? Look at Proverbs 4:23 and discuss this as a group. Are there areas that you need to re-examine in order to adequately and intentionally protect your soul?
12. Are you working diligently to be faithful to the end? How will you finish your life faithfully? You cannot be faithful tomorrow if you are not faithful today. What is keeping you from being faithful to Jesus today?

This passage applies to each of us. Pastor Mark challenged us with these three application points. Pick at least one, and commit to do this each day this week, and in the days and weeks to come.

1. If you are a spiritual leader in any capacity, meditate on the list in sermon notes.
2. If you aspire to spiritual leadership and specifically pastoral ministry, this is the nature of the calling and demands. Ask God to make you like this.
3. If you care for the church and for our future, pray this over your spiritual leaders. Pray that we would fulfill every single one of these ten commands and do it each day for the rest of our lives!