



A Biblical Focus for Faithful Service

A Noble Servant's Focus for Ministry

1 Timothy 4:11

Last Week: Five expressions of godly faithfulness in a noble servant's ministry both to God and to God's people:

- I. Teach the Truth
- II. Feed on the Truth
- III. Reject Untruth
- IV. Pursue the Truth
- V. Labor in the Truth

Today: **Six priorities** that help us maintain a **godly focus** in our service to others in the life of our church

What do these priorities have to do with **each member** of the church?

What is **your** responsibility to these ministry priorities in the life of our church?

You, as a member of Grace Church Williamsburg, need to know these things because:

- You need to have a biblical viewpoint and understanding about **God's priorities for His pastors** as they serve the church. In this way, you can **support them** in their **work**.
- You need to know how to **apply** these standards to **your** involvement and investment in God's church, and to evaluate **your** ministry **based on God's priorities for your service**.
- You need to be able to **encourage your brothers and sisters in Christ** in their service to the church family as they serve the Lord **based on His biblical priorities** for involvement in the local church.

I. Proper focus on the priority of **pure** doctrine (1 Tim. 4:11)

Several good reasons for the **church's careful focus** on God's pure words in Scripture:

First: Only God's words are **true** about godliness!

Second: Only God's words can be **trusted** to produce godliness!

Third: Only God's words can **train** us up in godliness!

I. Proper focus on the priority of pure doctrine (1 Tim. 4:11)

“Command...these things”

- Command (*parangello*) = to give orders, to charge, to direct, to instruct, to command
- **Command** is the same Greek word used in **1 Timothy 1:3, 5, and 18**, all in reference to Timothy’s ministry of preaching and teaching God’s truth in the local church.

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- In the context of our passage where Paul is giving specific instruction to Timothy about his preaching/teaching, *parangello* refers to the biblically **authoritative instruction and commands** given by God and upheld by pastors as they shepherd the church.

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“Command...these things”

- Timothy was under God’s **divine mandate** to command God’s people to obey God in **these things**.
- God’s preachers are in a service to God of **commanding**. **We do this because we are ourselves commanded to command!** It is an issue of **authority, faithfulness, and obedience** first and foremost to God.

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“Command and **teach** these things”

- Here is the second way that these things of God are to be communicated: through **teaching** the things of God to the **local church**.

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*“And for this reason we also thank God without ceasing that when you received **the word of God** which you heard from us, you accepted it not as the word of men, but for what it really is, **the word of God**, which is also at work in you who believe.” (1 Thess. 2:13)*

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How **you** are called by the Lord Jesus to support the sound teaching of truth in your local church context here at Grace Church Williamsburg...

I. Proper focus on the priority of pure doctrine (1 Tim. 4:11)

Sound doctrine will only serve to define and empower our **church life** to the degree that we are committed to share in it and to obey it **as a church family**.

So there must be a **shared, churchwide focus** on the **priority** of **commanding** and **teaching pure doctrine** (i.e., the pure things of God from Scripture).

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