

Reading: I Timothy 3:1-16

Topic: Priorities For Christian Living & Testimony

INTRODUCTION: In our busy lives of work, school and even in _____ for God, there are certain very important spiritual responsibilities that must not be _____ or our personal testimony and effectiveness will be damaged.

I. PERSONAL SPIRITUAL LIFE:

A. Soul Care:

1. We hear much even in the secular world today about personal _____ in its various forms, but for the child of God, taking care of our own personal spiritual _____ must be a priority. I Tim. 4:16
2. It is possible to fall into the _____ of going through the motions of ministry without keeping that close personal _____ with God in order to keep our own soul saved and refreshed in God. I Sam. 2: 22-24

B. The Basics:

1. There is no way to substitute our _____ prayer, the reading of God's Word and joining with the Body of Christ for _____ and ministry, for some other spiritual shortcut. Eph. 6:17,18
2. You cannot survive and be spiritually effective if you _____ the basics of spiritual life no more than your natural body can survive without its _____, water and rest. Heb. 2:1-3

II. YOUR REPUTATION & TESTIMONY:

A. A Good Name:

1. To be called a Christian means that your life should reflect _____ which means that when people observe your daily life, they should _____ good works. Mat. 5:16
2. The Word of God states that when the _____ do not reflect the character of the God that they claim to be serving, it becomes an undesirable _____ for the unsaved to follow. Pr. 25:26

B. Integrity:

1. The Word of God states clearly that those who live and _____ for God in ministry must have the integrity to go along with the _____ of responsibility. I Tim. 3:7
2. A person who is involved in ministry and anyone who _____ to be a child of God will be under the scrutiny of those in the world who watch to see if they can _____ a reason to point an accusing finger at any child of God, thus we must live for God with integrity every day. I Tim. 6:1

III. YOUR FAMILY:

A. Your Marriage:

1. The marriage union of husband and _____ is compared in the Scripture to the relationship between Christ and the _____, a very sacred union. Eph. 5:25
2. If the marriage union is not maintained with spiritual care, it can deteriorate and sadly in some _____

even fail, which destroys the good testimony of the church and the _____ involved. Eph. 5:28,29

B. Your Family:

1. The family was God's design for the development, _____ and sustenance of the human race, and the plan of God was for the family to be a unit of people _____ for Him and for Jesus to be the head of the home with father and mother leading and guiding the children. I Cor. 11:3, Col. 3:18-20
2. When the Word of God speaks about the provision of a man for his _____, it does not just refer to financial _____ only, but also for the spiritual and emotional support necessary to nurture and sustain the family unit. I Tim. 5:8
3. Protecting, providing for and preserving our families is the will and _____ of God.

IV. YOUR PHYSICAL BODY:

A. The Temple of God:

1. We know from the Word of God that our body is the temple of God and since it _____ to Him, we have been given the responsibility to take _____ of it. I Cor. 6:19,20
2. Caring for the temple of God first requires that it be kept _____ and holy unto the Lord and not used for unclean or immoral _____ that would dishonor the Lord. I Cor. 6:15-18

B. Health:

1. In addition to keeping our bodies morally clean, it is also very important to take proper _____ of the health of our physical temple and keep it _____ and healthy. 3 John 1:2
2. The things that keep our bodies well are good nutrition, adequate _____ and physical exercise on a regular basis.
3. If the health of our physical body fails, we will not be able to have the strength to _____ for God effectively.

CONCLUSION: How important it is for all children of God to understand the _____ of setting proper priorities for spirituality and a good testimony in order to be the most effective in living for and doing the _____ of God.