

I Timothy 1:12-20
The Heart of a Disciple

GRATITUDE (12) – giving thanks to God

He has given me strength (Psalm 28:7) – ***I can accomplish nothing without Him***
He has considered me faithful – ***He knows my desire and my heart – He keeps me faithful***
He has appointed me to His service (Psalm 84:10-11) – ***the greatest job ever!***

HONESTY (13) – acknowledging who we are (or were – I Corinthians 6:9-11)

I was a blasphemer (God works in spite of me, not because of me) – ***I can take no credit***
I was a persecutor (Ability or Availability? – Exodus 4:11-12) – ***He can use a donkey***
I was a violent man (His work is impossible without Him – John 15:5) – ***a sinner transformed***

HUMILITY (13-16) – acknowledging the source of anything good in me (James 1:17)

It is because of His mercy (Titus 3:4-5) – ***which I did not earn or deserve***
I acted in ignorance – ***“Father, forgive them for they do not know what they are doing”***
I acted in unbelief – ***it is only through faith in Christ that we can serve God***
It is because of His grace (Ephesians 2:4-5) – ***we are not just forgiven, we are loved by God***
Abundantly given to me – ***lavished on us (Romans 5:5 / I John 3:1)***
Along with the faith and love that are in Christ – ***Jesus loves me this I know...***
It is because of His truth – HE CAME TO SAVE SINNERS (Luke 19:10) – ***His purpose in coming***
The chief of sinners shown mercy – ***if God can save Paul, He can save me!***
The hope for sinners
Showing Christ’s unlimited patience (Hebrews 9:27) – ***to those who repent***
Salvation for those who believe (beware hard-hearts – II Chron. 36:16)
There is a point from which we leave God no choice.

PRAISE (17) – responding to His gospel (Romans 3:27; 11:33-35 / Ephesians 2:6-7)

The full extent of our salvation is beyond our understanding
Exalting the King – who is eternal, immortal and invisible! - ***He is worthy***
Exalting the only God – to whom honor and glory are due forever! – ***there is none other***

FAITHFUL (18-20) – fighting the good fight (Jude 3) ***called to contend for the faith***

Adhering to the truth (II Timothy 4:1-2) – ***we preach His Word!***
Following your call (Acts 20:24) – ***we follow His call***
Faith and a good conscience maintained – ***we keep ourselves right with Him***
Avoiding shipwreck (Acts 20:30) – ***do not stray from the faith or His Word!***

Discussion questions for I Timothy 1:12-20

In this passage, Paul describes 5 attributes of himself. Why are each of these attributes important for a disciple of Christ?

GRATITUDE: (Psalm 100:4 / Luke 17:15-19 / II Corinthians 9:11-15)

We are to enter into His presence with thanksgiving. Returning thanks for what He has done brings praise and honor to God. Our generosity in the name of Christ can bring thanks to God, but the gift He has given us in His Son cannot be matched and our response should be to give Him thanks always.

HONESTY: (Hebrews 4:12-13 / Proverbs 6:16-17 / Ephesians 4:14-15)

We cannot be dishonest with God, because He knows our hearts. We will give an account to Him not only for our actions, but also for our motives. Let His Word cut through the deceit of your heart and come before Him in brokenness and honesty. God hates a lying tongue. Deceit brings confusion and division; we must speak the truth in love – to build up the body of Christ.

HUMILITY: (James 4:6-10 / Proverbs 16:18-19 / Philippians 2:3-5 / I Corinthians 1:26-31; 4:6-7)

Self-serving pride is what the world operates in, we must humble ourselves before God because only then can we experience His grace. Pride leads only to destruction, better to be humble and oppressed. Jesus gave us the ultimate example of humility in coming to earth to serve us and die for us. We are to do nothing out of selfish ambition. It is the lowly and humble who come to Christ – we have no reason for boasting (Romans 3:27-28). We must not think of ourselves as better than others, because anything good that we have comes from God, not from us.

PRAISE: (Hebrews 13:15 / Revelation 4:11 / Psalm 145:3 / I Peter 2:9)

We do not offer animal sacrifices, but we are to offer the sacrifice of praise – acknowledging Jesus for who He is. Our God is great – there is no one like Him – He is greatly to be praised. All who are in heaven praise Him and it is our privilege to do so now, praising the One who brought us out of darkness into His glorious light.

FAITHFULNESS: (I Corinthians 4:2 / Luke 16:10-12 / Matthew 25:21 / II Timothy 2:11-13)

God has given us great privileges, entrusting us with His love and His word – we must prove faithful. If we cannot be trustworthy in little things (like money) how can we expect to be given greater riches. Do we not want to hear Jesus say, “Well done good and faithful servant?” I am thankful for His faithfulness – that He who began a good work in me will see it to completion.

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