

EXCELLENCE IN MINISTRY

Finishing Well—Doing What’s Best in the Challenges of Ministry

Clear Commandments of Godliness

1 Timothy 6:11–16



LET’S BEGIN HERE

Some pastors pray, either before or after their sermons, that their congregations would have ears to hear and eyes to see the truth in God’s Word, adding that their hands be diligent in good works and their feet swift in obedience. It’s not necessarily glamorous or exciting, but living the Christian life really does come down to one word: *obedience*. It can be difficult to follow God’s clear commands. However, obedience doesn’t have to involve a grin-and-bear-it kind of attitude, not if we keep in mind that obedience is always for our good and God’s glory.



LET’S DIG DEEPER

1. Some Things to Remember About Commandments

Scripture is filled with principles and precepts—general guidelines and specific commands. We see both in Paul’s first letter to Timothy. But as Paul closed out his letter, he became more pointed and personal, issuing specific commands to Timothy.

Commands are brief, simple, and clear.

Commands are for our good and God’s glory.



Quotable

*God’s commands
are always
for our good
and His glory.*

— Charles R. Swindoll



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Commands call for one response: obedience.

Commands come with a price: disobedience demands consequences.

2. Some Commandments Regarding Ministry (1 Timothy 6:11–16)

In 1 Timothy 6:11–16, Paul contrasted Timothy’s way of life and ministry with that of the false teachers, commanding him to flee, follow, fight, and fasten onto eternal life (1 Timothy 6:11–12). Paul also charged Timothy to keep without “stain or reproach” the commandment entrusted to Timothy’s care (6:14).

What to Flee (6:11)



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What to Pursue (6:11–12)

How to Obey (6:13–16)

Why Obey (6:16)



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LET’S LIVE IT

The New Testament contains fewer commands than does the Old Testament, so when we come across them, we should pay particular attention. The six verses we’ve studied in this message contain four commands, all requiring direct obedience. But if we really want what’s best for us and to glorify God in our obedience, we must also maintain the following attitudes:

1. *Unswerving devotion* to an authentic Christian life (1 Timothy 6:11)
2. *Disciplined determination* to keep our Christian life fresh and relevant (6:12)
3. *Absolute purity* in our personal and public lives (6:13–14)
4. *True humility* before the sovereign King and Lord of the universe (6:15–16)

Being honest at this moment, take a spiritual snapshot of your attitude. Place an “X” in the box that best describes you right now.

	Yes!		Maybe		No!
Unswerving Devotion					
Disciplined Determination					
Absolute Purity					
True Humility					

Which attitude(s) did you mark toward the “Maybe” and “No!” side? What can you do to change your attitude so it becomes more like “Yes!”?



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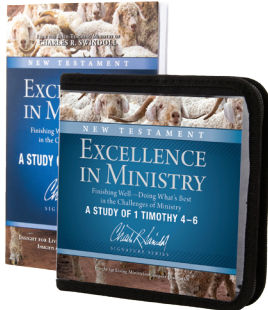
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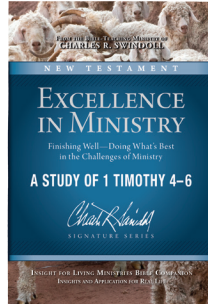
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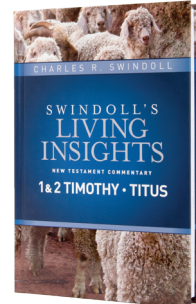
Tools for Digging Deeper



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