

# EXCELLENCE IN MINISTRY

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

Let’s Evaluate Your Ministry

*A Review of 1 Timothy*



### LET’S BEGIN HERE

Ask any student getting ready to take a final exam how he or she feels, and you’ll likely get a contradictory answer. The student will be filled with trepidation because the test will reveal his or her knowledge (or ignorance) but also with elation because it’s the last test of the course. What is standard procedure in education and business—the evaluation of students and employees—isn’t necessarily standard procedure in ministry. Churches too often shirk the responsibility of evaluating how their ministries are doing. They shouldn’t. Because churches are populated and pastored by imperfect people, we should stop every once in a while to administer an examination against the standard of God’s Word. As we close our study of 1 Timothy, let’s do that—let’s evaluate your ministry.



### LET’S DIG DEEPER

#### 1. Briefly, Let’s Think About Evaluation

Because our pastors and people aren’t perfect, our churches aren’t perfect. And because our churches aren’t perfect, our ministries aren’t perfect. That’s why we need to evaluate our ministries and our churches against what is perfect: God’s Word.



### Quotable

*To enter into leadership in ministry is to dive in to a goldfish bowl. Be an authentic model of Christ. People are watching.*

— Charles R. Swindoll



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## 2. Honestly, Let’s Take an Examination

Those most resistant to change sometimes use the excuse that the past is obvious, the future is obscure. They may wonder, *Who’s to say the examination is really objective or the prescription to change is best?* It’s a fair question. That’s why any evaluation of a ministry or church doesn’t rest on common sense, congregational complaints, or human wisdom. Rather, an objective examination of a ministry or church depends on divine wisdom to discover God’s standard revealed in His Word. Based on each chapter of the letter of 1 Timothy, every ministry or church must keep six principles primary. Though this isn’t an exhaustive measure of evaluation, it is an extensive one, and if applied, it will transform a ministry or church.

*Principle One: A Ministry Must Maintain Balance*

*Principle Two: A Ministry Must Emphasize Prayer*

*Principle Three: A Ministry Must Have Qualified Leadership*



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*Principle Four: A Ministry Must Reflect Excellence*

*Principle Five: A Ministry Must Meet Needs*

*Principle Six: A Ministry Must Maintain Purity*



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### LET’S LIVE IT

Any ministry or church claiming the name of Christ must pause every once in a while and evaluate how things are going. The six principles found in 1 Timothy provide a good measuring stick. We can sum up these principles in three statements: *look up*—allow God and His Word to set our agenda (1 Timothy 1–2); *look within*—be committed to quality (3–4); *look around*—get serious about relationships (5–6).

**A ministry that squares with Scripture requires consistent scriptural input. How much of your ministry or church’s strategy comes from the Bible?**

**A ministry that remains on target requires strong, internal integrity. How often does your ministry or church perform quality-control evaluations? How often do you praise or reward integrity when you see it?**

**A ministry that earns the respect of others requires great personal attention. How would you evaluate the head/heart balance in your ministry or church?**



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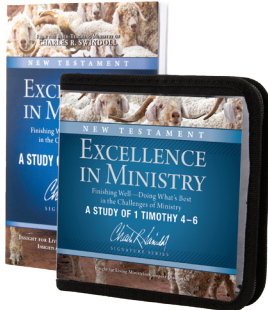
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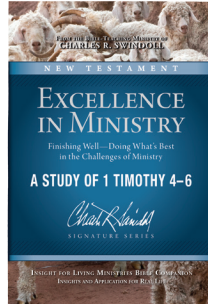
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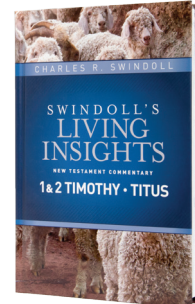
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