



Sowing Seeds for Many Seasons

Focus on the Season of Youth

“Rejoice, young man, during your childhood, and let your heart be pleasant during the days of young manhood. And follow the impulses of your heart and the desires of your eyes. Yet know that God will bring you to judgment for all these things.”

-- Ecclesiastes 11:9

Enjoy your youth

Beware of your youth

“Let no one look down on [despise] your youthfulness,
but rather in speech [word], conduct, love, faith, and purity,
show yourself an example of those who believe.”

-- *1 Timothy 4:12*

Speech

Conduct

Love

Faith

Purity

This verse
teaches us that
young men CAN
be an example
even to older men.

“Let no one look down on
[despise] your youthfulness,
but rather in speech [word],
conduct, love,
faith, and purity, show
yourself an example of
those who believe.”

-- *1 Timothy 4:12*

Be an example in **WORD**

- ◇ Audience – both public speech and private conversation
- ◇ Listening to words
- ◇ Source of words
- ◇ Danger areas for words
 - ◇ *God's Name*
 - ◇ *False theology*
 - ◇ *Irreverence*

Be an example in CONDUCT

- ◇ Conduct = way of life, behavior, habits
- ◇ Paul's conduct was originally hostility to Christianity.
- ◇ Paul exhorts to put off the former conduct of the old man – corrupt, deceitful lusts (Eph. 4:22). *Note: this [lusts/desires] delves into our internal state.*
- ◇ **Warning: what we are will eventually come out in both our speech and our behavior.**
- ◇ Conduct is seen especially in how we deal with others.
- ◇ Is our conduct the same across the board? At home, church, with friends?
- ◇ Requires self-control (Titus 2:6), a good evidence of maturity. **Strive for maturity!**

Be an example in LOVE


- ◆ What is this and how do we test it?
- ◆ Follows behavior because test for conduct is the motive.
- ◆ Love is unselfish concern for what is best for others.
- ◆ Good test – how a person treats others, especially those who cannot benefit him. E.g., how one treats the elderly or weak or infirm.
- ◆ Love is patient, kind, ...
- ◆ Without it, a person is like a loud, jarring, unpleasant noise (fire alarm)

Be an example in **FAITH**

- ◆ Firm, unshaken confidence in God
- ◆ Beware: some have it not and have departed
- ◆ Demonstrated by decisions and choices
- ◆ Connected with being trustworthy, reliable, faithful

Be an example in PURITY

- ◇ The part of life that is not necessarily as obvious to others.
- ◇ Area of great danger for all men.
- ◇ Strongest in young men but many examples of failure both in Scripture and in our experience.
- ◇ Also, beware of being effeminate in any way – clothing, hair style, actions.
- ◇ *“Treat older women like mothers, younger women like sisters, in all purity.” (1 Tim. 5:2)*



“As for me
and my house
we will serve
the Lord!”



*“When Moses turned again into the camp, his assistant Joshua the son of Nun, **a young man**, would not depart from the tent.” (Ex. 33:11b)*



**Joshua stayed at the tent after
Moses left. Why?**

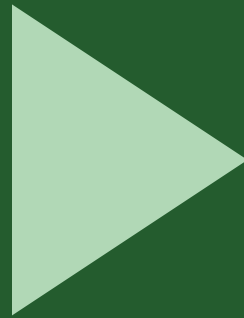
To guard it

To seek the Lord

**These early habits
formed the man
that we read about
in Joshua 24**

Do others have reason to despise
or to respect you?

Let no man
despise thy
youth.



Let no man
despise thy
middle age
or **old age**