

## THE DISCIPLINES OF GODLY PEOPLE—PART 1 VARIOUS SCRIPTURE

### Introduction

Turn to **Titus 2:1-10**.

Paul was writing here to the young pastor Titus of some particular **DISCIPLINES** that Believers needed to have in various stages of their lives!

There is **no time in our lives that we are to just let things go and live UNDISCIPLINED lives!** Also, there are particular **DISCIPLINES** that are especially applicable at certain stages and circumstances of life—**old vs. young, male vs. female, bond vs. free, or even ministers vs. layman!**

I truly believe that **one of the main things that is at the heart of most of our societal woes today is that there are way too many people who lack proper DISCIPLINE in their lives.**

Now I'm **not just** talking about today's kids being raised without **DISCIPLINE**. Which, by the way, could I tell you that **we are paying a high price for that and will continue to pay a high price for it. Oh how very sad it is to see so many young people without DISCIPLINE in their lives!**

**But many adults today who were never taught proper DISCIPLINE and SELF-CONTROL in their lives as well!**

**When one lives an UNDISCIPLINED life, it ultimately brings great heartache into that life.**

**We ALL need certain DISCIPLINES in our life in general!** And so, we're going to begin looking at some Godly **DISCIPLINES** that we should **ALL have as Believers in Christ!**

Sadly, I have witnessed too many examples of Believers who once had proper Godly **DISCIPLINES** and **SELF-CONTROL** in their lives, but at some point they cast off those **DISCIPLINES** and have traded it for a hedonistic, whatever feels good lifestyle.

These folks, for the most part, **know what is good and what is right**, but they now **shun what is good and what is right!**

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**Instead, they do what is convenient and what pleases the flesh.** Could I tell you that **no matter who has adopted that way of living, it is a recipe for disaster not only for them, but for their loved ones!**

When an **UNDISCIPLINED** life is sown it usually reaps a family full of **UNDISCIPLINED** living. **UNDISCIPLINED** families make for an **UNDISCIPLINED** Church and an **UNDISCIPLINED** society!

*Galatians 6:7-8--“7 Be not deceived; God is not mocked: for whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap. 8 For he that soweth to his flesh shall of the flesh reap corruption; but he that soweth to the Spirit shall of the Spirit reap life everlasting.”*

**We would do well to remember the laws of sowing and reaping:**

1. **We always reap what we sow.**
2. **We always reap more than we sow.**
3. **We always reap later than we sow.**

Now understand that **DISCIPLINE** may seem like a hard **WORD** and even hard **WORK**, but **DISCIPLINE** is absolutely necessary in our lives! It is something that we must learn to embrace and thank God for as we grow in Him!

*Hebrews 12:5--“5 And ye have forgotten the exhortation which speaketh unto you as unto children, My son, despise not thou the chastening of the Lord, nor faint when thou art rebuked of him: 6 For whom the Lord loveth he chasteneth, and scourgeth every son whom he receiveth.”*

**When we fail to DISCIPLINE ourselves, our loving Heavenly Father brings CHASTENING or DISCIPLINE into our lives! He loves us too much to leave us in an UNDISCIPLINED life!**

The apostle Paul linked the idea of **DISCIPLINE** with the spiritual life in **1 Timothy 4:7, “Exercise thyself rather unto godliness”**

**In the physical realm, we all know we should exercise, right?** We know it is good for the general health of our bodies! But knowing it is one thing and doing it is whole another thing! We have a hard time making it a reality in our lives. With our busy lives sometimes it is hard to find time to exercise.

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And even when we do have time to exercise, we find that we would rather do something else and so our priorities get us off track. And, **consequently, we pay a physical price with regard to our physical health.**

**Well, in the spiritual realm we find things are much the same way.** This *EXERCISING unto godliness* that Paul refers to is a **spiritual workout or spiritual routines** that help tone our **spiritual life** and help us to **develop healthy spiritual lives** (i.e. They help us to develop **godliness!**)

There in **1 Timothy 4:8** Paul said, “...*godliness is profitable unto all things, having promise of the life that now is and of that which is to come.*”

Well, if “*godliness is profitable unto all things,*” don’t you think that we should be doing all we can to make sure that we are *exercising ourselves unto godliness?* (i.e. **Doing the things that develop godliness in our lives!**)

**Our lives as Believers are to be all about bringing our wills and every area of our lives into SUBMISSION to God’s will!** That is **godly DISCIPLINE!** That, my friend, is *EXERCISING ourselves to godliness.*

I want us to begin to look at this matter of *EXERCISING ourselves unto godliness.* I want us to look at some **DISCIPLINES** that ought to be in the life of every Believer in order to bring us to where we are living Godly lives!

To the extent that these **DISCIPLINES** we’re going to see are in our lives, there will be **godliness** in our lives. To the extent that these **DISCIPLINES** are missing from our lives, there will be something vital missing from our spiritual lives.

So, what are some of these **DISCIPLINES** we need?

### **I. WE NEED THE DISCIPLINE OF THE GOSPEL! (Titus 2:11ff)**

This ought to be a given, but let’s not take anything for granted!

**The Gospel is the very source of godliness in our lives!**

*1 Corinthians 15:3-4–“...Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures; and that He was buried, and that He rose again the third day according to the Scriptures.”*

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**To be Godly, we must not only know what the Gospel is, but we must have accepted it personally and believed on it with saving faith! We must embrace it, and determine to make it the very center of our life!**

**Without this DISCIPLINE in your life you will never have the other DISCIPLINES necessary to bring about godliness in your life! Only a life changed by the Gospel of Jesus Christ has the possibility of becoming Godly!**

**Making the Gospel active in our life is our FIRST and MOST IMPORTANT DISCIPLINE! For apart from the Gospel, there can be NO TRUE godliness in our life!**

So, the Gospel is the source and foundation of godliness in our lives!

### **II. WE NEED THE DISCIPLINE OF SUBMISSION TO GOD! (Philippians 2:8-11)**

It is a shame that SUBMISSION to God seems to have been eliminated from our cultural vocabulary. **Bringing our lives into SUBMISSION to God’s will in everything is one of the keys to being a godly person!**

**It is also the pathway to joy and the abundant life!**

**SUBMISSION to God applies to every area of our lives!**

- 1. We begin by restoring the Gospel to its rightful place at the center of our thoughts and deeds every day.**
- 2. Then it is an ongoing, daily choosing of God’s ways over our own ways.**  
*James 4:7-8, 10–“7 Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you. 8 Draw nigh to God, and he will draw nigh to you. Cleanse your hands, ye sinners; and purify your hearts, ye double minded. 10 Humble yourselves in the sight of the Lord, and he shall lift you up.”*

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*Hebrews 12:9–“9 Furthermore we have had fathers of our flesh which corrected us, and we gave them reverence: **shall we not much rather be in subjection unto the Father of spirits, and live?**”*

Let me ask you this question: **Is the will of God more important to you than what you want for your life?**

Listen to the words of Jesus in **Luke 9:23-25:**

*Luke 9:23–“23 And he said to them all, If any man will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross daily, and follow me. 24 For whosoever will save his life shall lose it: but whosoever will lose his life for my sake, the same shall save it. 25 For what is a man advantaged, if he gain the whole world, and lose himself, or be cast away?”*

*WE NEED THE DISCIPLINE OF THE GOSPEL...*

*WE NEED THE DISCIPLINE OF SUBMISSION TO GOD!*