

“If you instruct the brethren in these things,
you will be a **good minister** of Jesus Christ”
(1 Timothy 4:6)

Characteristics of a Good Minister of Jesus Christ

A good minister of Jesus Christ...

- Will not depart from the faith, but instead hold fast to it.
 - 4:1.
 - Reckon how many “deceiving spirits” and “doctrines of demons” there are?
 - 3:9.
 - “**Hold fast** the pattern of sound words which you have heard from me” (2 Timothy 1:13).

A good minister of Jesus Christ...

- Will be “nourished in the words of faith,” and will carefully follow the doctrine of Christ.
 - 4:6.
 - “I urge you to take nourishment, for this is for your survival” (Acts 27:34).
 - “Nourished and knit together by joints and ligaments, grows with the increase from God” (Colossians 2:19).
 - Remember the “sound words” from 2 Timothy 1:13?

A good minister of Jesus Christ...

- Does not give heed to any other doctrine.
 - 4:1–3, 7.
 - “Old wives’ fables” have now been replaced, at least in part, by internet memes, religious slogans, etc.
 - False ideas often come from passages lifted completely out of context.

A good minister of Jesus Christ...

- Will have a “pure conscience” (3:9), not one that has been “seared” (4:2).
 - Don’t we wonder sometimes how someone could have gone so far, whether it’s in teaching or practice?
 - Slowly, but surely we can become “past feeling” (Ephesians 4:19).
 - 1:5, 19; Hebrews 13:18.

“If you instruct the brethren in these things,
you will be a **good minister** of Jesus Christ”
(1 Timothy 4:6)

Characteristics of a Good Minister of Jesus Christ

Review: A good minister of Jesus Christ...

1. Will not depart from the faith (4:1), but instead hold fast to it (3:9).
2. Will be “nourished in the words of faith,” and will carefully follow the doctrine of Christ (4:6).
3. Does not give heed to any other doctrine (4:1–3, 7).
4. Will have a “pure conscience” (3:9), not one that’s been “seared” (4:2).

A good minister of Jesus Christ...

- Will be careful, not only about his teaching, but also about his *life*.
 - 4:12
 - “Pay close attention to yourself and to your teaching...” (4:16).
- When it comes to example and influence, perception matters.
 - “Providing honorable things, not only in the sight of the Lord, but also in the sight of men” (2 Corinthians 8:21).

A good minister of Jesus Christ...

- Will exercise himself toward godliness, realizing it “is profitable for all things,” that only it has the “promise of the life that now is and of that which is to come” (4:7–8).
 - “While bodily training is of some value, godliness is of value in every way...” (4:8, ESV).
 - It’s possible to have a toned body and a flabby soul.
 - “Bodily exercise” may refer to dietary regulations, like those mentioned in 4:3. See also Colossians 2:20–23.

A good minister of Jesus Christ...

- Will devote himself to his study and teaching.
 - 4:13.
 - “Take pains with these things; be absorbed in them, so that your progress will be evident to all” (4:15, NAS).
 - “Practice these things, immerse yourself in them...” (4:15, ESV).
 - If we don’t **PRO**gress, we **DI**gress.
 - 2 Timothy 2:15.

A good minister of Jesus Christ...

- Is motivated by the hope of his own salvation AND the salvation of others.
 - 4:16, 10.
 - “So, affectionately longing for you, we were well pleased to impart to you not only the gospel of God, but also our own lives, because you had become dear to us” (1 Thessalonians 2:8).
 - “For God is my witness, how greatly I long for you all with the affection of Jesus Christ” (Philippians 1:8).