

## **1 Timothy 4:6-16 Countermeasures against Cultural Error and Christian Apostasy**

1. Live out the message you teach. (vs. 6)  
*"The good minister is no theorizer. He teaches the apostolic doctrine which he has made his own both as nourishment by which to live, and as standard by which to judge himself." Ronald Ward (old dead guy) page 70*
  - Nourishment for life
  - Standard of judgment
2. Avoid superstition and fads. (vs. 7)
  - Our faith and ministry is rooted in history. I have the Resurrection and Exaltation of Christ driving me. I don't need to get swept away in foolishness.
  - The best defense is an attack, offensively. I don't need to focus on false teaching that is out there. I may need to expose them as error, but my main teaching must be focused on the Word of God. THAT, will expose the bad stuff. *Illustrate using Mug's HS coach wishbone*
3. Self-training. (vs. 8-10)
  - The minister's own spiritual life does not come automatically. He must train constantly.
  - My personal holiness and godliness must be worked for, fought for, and maintained constantly. There are no vacation days from this.
  - A season of formal training is great, but I must be a lifelong student of The Word.
  - Personal, physical discipline matters. *Illustrate here talking about overweight cops and preachers.*
4. Be (set) an Example. (vs. 11-12)  
The most credible teaching can be quickly rejected if the minister is a hypocrite in his own life. Think of the devastation caused when a man known to lead and pastor falls into personal sin.
5. Effective Spiritual Ministry. (vs. 13-16)
  - Preparation (MacArthur quote)
  - Public reading
  - Exhortation (*paraklesis* which often = "preaching") implies believers. Our ministries should both reach lost kids, and disciple believers.
  - Teaching (explaining)
  - This is critical to the health, survival, personal holiness and perseverance of myself and those I lead.