



SUNDAY EVENING

AT BETHANY BAPTIST CHURCH

Title: Rules of Engagement

Passage: 1 Timothy 6:11-16

Speaker: Pastor Dan Preston

Introduction: As Christians, we must remember that we are living in a spiritual battle. Yet it is easy to become distracted, fight the wrong battles, and lose sight of what matters most. As Paul brings 1 Timothy to a close, his words become personal: "But thou, O man of God..." Timothy was not to follow the world around him because he belonged to God. The same is true for us. We answer to a different Commander, pursue different priorities, and fight a different battle. In these verses, Paul gives us clear instructions for how we are to live as Christian rules of engagement.

I. Know When to Run (Verse 11a)

There are some dangers so destructive that the wisest thing a believer can do is turn around and run

Spiritual maturity isn't demonstrated by seeing how close we can get to temptation. It's demonstrated by how quickly we're willing to run from it.

Wisdom is often seen in walking away before temptation ever gains a foothold.

A child of God ought to live differently because he belongs to a different King.



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II. Know What to Pursue (Verse 11b)

A man of God ought to be known for honesty, integrity, and keeping his word. His life ought to match his testimony.

Godliness is living with a constant awareness of God. It's a life that seeks to honor God whether anyone else is watching or not.

Spiritual maturity isn't measured merely by how much Bible we know. It's measured by how much our lives are beginning to resemble the One we claim to follow.

The Christian life isn't only a race to be run. It is also a battle to be fought.

III. Know What is Worth Fighting For (Verse 12a)

Paul reminds Timothy that there is a daily battle to remain faithful to Jesus Christ.

If Satan cannot keep you from coming to Christ, he'll do everything he can to keep you from walking closely with Christ.

One of Satan's greatest victories is convincing Christians to fight the wrong battles.

Fight the battles worth fighting because they shape the kind of Christian you'll become.

IV. Never Forget Who Your Commander Is (Verses 12b-16)

Don't become so consumed with the battles of today that you forget what awaits you tomorrow.



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The Christian life is not an endless struggle with no hope of relief. It is faithful service while we wait for our Commander to return.

Our confidence has never rested in ourselves. It has always rested in the King of kings and the Lord of lords.

We are not fighting for a victory that is uncertain. We are serving a King whose victory has already been secured.

Conclusion: Every day we step into a spiritual battle, and Paul reminds us how we are to live: flee from temptation, pursue what is right, fight the good fight of faith, and keep our eyes on our Commander. The world will constantly pull us in another direction, but we belong to the King of kings and Lord of lords. One day the battle will be over and our faith will become sight. Until then, may we remain faithful, living each day according to our King's rules of engagement, so that one day we may hear, "Well done, thou good and faithful servant."



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