

# Twelve Characteristics of an Excellent Teacher

1 Timothy 4:6-16

1. An Excellent Teacher Is, Above All, a Servant  
*you will be a good servant of Christ Jesus, (4:6b)*
2. An Excellent Teacher Warns His People of Error  
*In pointing out these things to the brethren, (4:6a)*
3. An Excellent Teacher Is an Expert Student of Scripture  
*constantly nourished on the words of the faith and of the sound doctrine which you have been following. (4:6c)*
4. An Excellent Teacher Avoids the Influence of Unholy Teaching  
*But have nothing to do with worldly fables fit only for old women. (4:7a)*
5. An Excellent Teacher Disciplines Himself for Godliness  
*On the other hand, discipline yourself for the purpose of godliness; for bodily discipline is only of little profit, but godliness is profitable for all things, since it holds promise for the present life and also for the life to come. It is a trustworthy statement deserving full acceptance. (4:7b-9)*
6. An Excellent Teacher Is Committed to Hard Work  
*For it is for this we labor and strive, because we have fixed our hope on the living God, who is the Savior of all men, especially of believers. (4:10)*
7. An Excellent Teacher Teaches with Authority  
*Prescribe and teach these things. (4:11)*
8. An Excellent Teacher Is a Model of Spiritual Virtue  
*Let no one look down on your youthfulness, but rather in speech, conduct, love, faith and purity, show yourself an example of those who believe. (4:12)*
9. An Excellent Teacher Has a Thoroughly Biblical Ministry  
*Until I come, give attention to the public reading of Scripture, to exhortation and teaching. (4:13)*
10. An Excellent Teacher Fulfills His Calling  
*Do not neglect the spiritual gift within you, which was bestowed upon you through prophetic utterance with the laying on of hands by the presbytery. (4:14)*
11. An Excellent Teacher Is Totally Absorbed in His Work  
*Take pains with these things; be absorbed in them, (4:15a)*
12. An Excellent Teacher Is Progressing in Spiritual Growth  
*so that your progress may be evident to all. (4:15b)*

## The Concluding Exhortation

*Pay close attention to yourself and to your teaching; persevere in these things; for as you do this you will insure salvation both for yourself and for those who hear you. (4:16)*

<sup>1</sup>Based on The MacArthur New Testament Commentary, 1 Timothy.