

*A soft answer turns away wrath, but a harsh word stirs up anger.  
Proverbs 15:1 (ESV)*

## Conclusion - How can I put myself in a position to be useful for God?

1. Clean the sin out of my life.
2. Avoid relationships with those who claim the name of Christ but are living openly opposed to Christ.
3. Run from youthful passions.
4. Pursue reading My Bible.
5. Pursue active righteousness.
6. Pursue faithfulness in my character.
7. Pursue love in my actions.
8. Pursue peace in my relationships.

**A holy man is an awesome weapon in the hand of God.**  
— Robert Murry M'Cheyene

### Life Group Questions

1. Review your sermon notes and the above outline. What stood out in this message? What did you learn that you didn't know?
2. We want to be in a position where we are ready to be used by God for His good works. How does a Christian's poor character, such as gossiping, bitterness, divisiveness make not just but other people unfit for God's use? How can a poor lifestyle, such as described in 1 Corinthians 5:9-11, influence the future of a church?
3. What undesirable youthful passions have you seen in your life? How does the Christian response to these contrast with secular culture?
4. Pastor Kurt talked about the difference between active and passive righteousness. How does that distinction change the way you think about living for Christ?
5. What do the following verses teach us about the relationship between the Christian faith and a holy life? What do these verses teach us about those who claim the name of Christ but don't take holiness seriously? See Titus 2:14, Hebrews 12:14, 2 Peter 3:9-11, Ephesians 5:3-7, 1 John 3:3-6, Romans 6:12-14, 1 Peter 2:11-12



## 2 Timothy 2:20-22 – How Can I Be Useful For God?

February 28, 2021

### 1. Household objects teach us about our usefulness to God.

*Now in a great house there are not only vessels of gold and silver but also of wood and clay, some for honorable use, some for dishonorable.*  
2 Timothy 2:20 (ESV)

*if I delay, you may know how one ought to behave in the household of God, which is the church of the living God, a pillar and buttress of the truth.* 1 Timothy 3:15 (ESV)

*But God's firm foundation stands, bearing this seal: "The Lord knows those who are his," and, "Let everyone who names the name of the Lord depart from iniquity."* 2 Timothy 2:19 (ESV)

### 2. When I cleanse myself from sin, I put myself in a position to be useful for God.

*Therefore, if anyone cleanses himself from what is dishonorable, he will be a vessel for honorable use, set apart as holy, useful to the master of the house, ready for every good work.* 2 Timothy 2:21 (ESV)

*Pay attention to yourselves! If your brother sins, rebuke him, and if he repents, forgive him, and if he sins against you seven times in the day, and turns to you seven times, saying, 'I repent,' you must forgive him."*  
Luke 17:3-4 (ESV)

### 3. When I cleanse myself from sinful influence, I put myself in a position to be useful for God.

**A. Watch out for the danger of doctrinal deviation.**

*If anyone teaches a different doctrine and does not agree with the sound words of our Lord Jesus Christ and the teaching that accords with godliness, he is puffed up with conceit and understands nothing. He has an unhealthy craving for controversy and for quarrels about words, which produce envy, dissension, slander, evil suspicions, and constant friction among people who are depraved in mind and deprived of the truth, imagining that godliness is a means of gain.*

1 Timothy 6:3–5 (ESV)

**B. Watch out for the danger of lifestyle deviation.**

*...if anyone cleanses himself from (“what is dishonorable” or “from these things”), he will be a vessel for honorable use,...*

2 Timothy 2:21 (ESV)

*Those who cleanse themselves from the latter will be instruments for special purposes,...* 2 Timothy 2:21 (NIV)

*I wrote to you in my letter not to associate with sexually immoral people—not at all meaning the sexually immoral of this world, or the greedy and swindlers, or idolaters, since then you would need to go out of the world. But now I am writing to you not to associate with anyone who bears the name of brother if he is guilty of sexual immorality or greed, or is an idolater, reviler, drunkard, or swindler—not even to eat with such a one.*

1 Corinthians 5:9–11 (ESV)

*Do not be deceived: “Bad company ruins good morals.”*

1 Corinthians 15:33 (ESV)

*If anyone does not obey what we say in this letter, take note of that person, and have nothing to do with him, that he may be ashamed.*

2 Thessalonians 3:14 (ESV)

*See to it that no one fails to obtain the grace of God; that no “root of bitterness” springs up and causes trouble, and by it many become defiled; Hebrews 12:15*

**C. When I cleanse myself from sinful influence, I become a vessel for honorable use.**

**D. When I cleanse myself from sinful influence, I become useful for the master.**

**E. When I cleanse myself from sinful influence, I am ready for every good work.**

**4. If I want God to use me, I must run from some things and run to other things.**

*So flee youthful passions and pursue righteousness, faith, love, and peace, along with those who call on the Lord from a pure heart.* 2 Timothy 2:22 (ESV)

**A. Flee youthful passions.**

*...she caught him by his garment, saying, “Lie with me.” But he left his garment in her hand and fled and got out of the house.* Genesis 39:12 (ESV)

*Flee from sexual immorality. Every other sin a person commits is outside the body, but the sexually immoral person sins against his own body.*

1 Corinthians 6:18 (ESV)

*And the Lord’s servant must not be quarrelsome but kind to everyone, able to teach, patiently enduring evil, correcting his opponents with gentleness... 2 Timothy 2:24–25 (ESV)*

**B. Pursue reading the Bible.**

*How can a young man keep his way pure? By guarding it according to your word.* Psalm 119:9 (ESV)

**C. Pursue active righteousness.**

**D. Pursue faithfulness in my character.**

**E. Pursue love in my actions.**

**F. Pursue peace in my relationships.**