The Only Way to Fight the World's Culture in Your Home

I. **Identify the lies**. II Timothy 4:3-4

- **Undoctrinal**
  - A doctrine is a teaching of Scripture. That's all it is. When God's reveals Himself, that's part of the Theology, the doctrine of God. When God talks about disobedience, that's what we call Hamartiology, the doctrine of sin. Everything in the Bible is doctrinal. (I Timothy 4:6)
  - The World's lies can be identified by the fact that the don't agree with the Scriptures.
  - Paul says these lies turn from the truth and chase after myths.
- **Comfortable**
  - Paul describes the World's lies as being something that tickles our ears and stokes our desires. And, you know what, that feels good. The echo chamber of self-affirmation is the most comfortable place to be. We love being told we're right and awesome and perfect and enough.
  - But the truth is so often uncomfortable. Proverbs 27:6 compares biblical reproof to wounds. Psalm 141:5 calls reproof smiting. In Matthew 5, Jesus compares spiritual maturity to amputation when He tells us to cut off the sin in our lives. Romans 8:13 tells us to put the practices of the body to death.
  - Our prideful hearts don't want to be told we're wrong. We don't want to do hard things. We don't want to walk difficult paths. In John Bunyan's Christian classic, Pilgrim's Progress, he shows Christian getting tired of walking the hard path and choosing instead to walk the fields of ease. And the consequences that awaited him there were dire.
  - If what the World is teaching strokes our egos, encourages our selfish desires, and seeks only to make us happy, then it's a lie.
  - This is not to say that nothing in the Bible is glorious and wonderful and uplifting and encouraging. That's not true at all. But the Bible's comfortable encouragement always includes two things. First, it's completely consumed with God. It's deliberately and unashamedly centered on the glory of God. And this first reality is what causes the second, it really doesn't have that much to do with us.
  - God's truth has weight. Yes, Jesus' burden is light, but not because it has no weight. It's light because the Holy Spirit empowers us to carry it. The World looks at the burden of God's truth and throw up their hands. "It's too much," they say. But we Christians can mount up on wings as eagles in the most difficult of circumstance.
  - We can—and must—have peace and joy even when the world is dark around us. Christians should be the most content and thankful people on the planet because we reject the lies of self-soothing, and when we humble ourselves and turn our selfish eyes onto Christ through the power of the Spirit, then these truths that are very uncomfortable to our sinful flesh are a joy to our redeemed spirits.
  - So, teach your kids to identify the lies of the World by recognizing if it disagrees with God and agrees with our own sinful desires.

II. **Pursue the truth**. II Timothy 4:5

- **Biblical** II Timothy 4:1-2, 3:14-15
  - Paul didn't just assume we'd be reading the Bible, he—under the inspiration of God Himself—commands it.
  - And it's only as we're reading and studying and meditating and memorizing and applying the Scriptures to our lives that we'll be able to do what we were commanded in verse

- We also need to be aware that just because someone talks about God or quotes a verse, that doesn't mean that what they're saying is true. This is why knowing the whole of Scripture and studying it and understanding how Scripture interprets Scriptures is so necessary. One of Satan's greatest tools is convincing believers to accept watered down, inaccurate, and patently false conclusions that look and sound biblical.

- **Self-Controlled**
  - The Greek word "sober" isn't talking about not being drunk. It's describing someone who is self-controlled and uses self-restraint. (I Thessalonians 5:8; I Peter 1:13-16)
  - We cannot be holy as God is holy without self-control. We need to gird our minds for action, anchor our hope, be obedient, reject the former worldly lusts, and pursue Christlikeness.
  - The World's culture doesn't encourage self-control, and when it does, it only does so in a self-centered way. We feel better about ourselves when we're self-controlled. We'll save ourselves from disaster when we exercise self-restraint.
- **Empowering**
  - Understanding what Timothy had to endure, but also understanding the supernatural tools at his disposal, Paul tells Timothy to endure hardship.
  - It's the power of the Holy Spirit through the Word that causes us to mount up on wings as eagles as we pursue God's glory.
  - As we say no to the flesh and yes to God, we can only do so in His strength.
  - If the World is pointing you and your family to self-sufficiency, it's lying to you. If it wants you to believe that you're enough or perfect the way you are or all you need . . . you've found a lie.
  - Our greatest empowerment doesn't come through empty self-actualizing mantras, it comes through the truth of God. Only as we know and humbly submit to His Word will we have the power to carry on even when life gets hard.
- **Gospel**
  - The Greek word translated evangelist refers to a proclaimer of good news and "Gospel" means good news. But the Gospel isn't just about the past one time act of justification whereby we're saved into Christ. It also refers to the progressive sanctification by which we're transformed into the image of Christ and the future hope of glorification when we're stripped of our selfish, sinful lusts.
  - We absolutely need to be sharing the Gospel and discipling people in Christ. That's the Great Commission at the end of Matthew. The World rejects the Gospel. They create their own gospels. They want to replace the saving and sanctifying work of Christ.
  - We know that the influence of the culture around us is a lie when it says and does anything that contradicts the Christ-centered Gospel of the Bible. But we need be discerning. Gospel-contradicting lies can be as simple as anything that promote
- **Ministry**
  - This Greek word speaks of service. (II Corinthians 5:18-19; Ephesians 4:11-12)
  - We were not saved for comfort and recreation. We were saved for work and service. We're to be active in this world with the Gospel, doing the work of an evangelist. The World is always lying to us, we need to counter that with the loving truth of the Bible.
  - The only way we can fight that in our homes is by teaching our kids to read, study, meditate on, memorize, and apply God's Word. We also need to be self-controlled, denying our flesh, taking up our crosses, and following Christ. We need to do all of this and more in the power of the Holy Spirit that comes through submission to the Scriptures. We need to be Gospel minded. We need to know the beautiful truths of salvation that it influence everything we do and say. And all of that put together is going to look like biblical ministry—serving each other in discipleship and truth.