

DISTINCTIVES OF A CONTAGIOUS CHURCH

2 Timothy 2:1–10

Why is it that we will drive past any number of churches in order to worship at one particular church located farther from our house than all the rest? What is it that draws us in, causing us to stay excited about, invest our gifts in, and become an active participant of that church instead of some other? How can one ministry become so attractive, so meaningful to us, that we're willing to adjust our lives to fit its schedule, rear our children in it, and even invite other people to come with us? The best word to describe such an attraction is *contagious*. Webster defines the root word, *contagion*, "an influence that spreads rapidly." When a church is in this category, the word quickly travels. People witness the passion in our enthusiasm, they sense the excitement in our voices, they hear of characteristics that set that church apart, and finally become so curious that they come to see for themselves. One thing is for sure: what they observe is a set of distinctives being modeled that are like nothing the world around them has to offer. Today, let's consider four of those distinctives. And then, let's think about how to sustain them.

I. A Mentor's Last Letter to His Friend

Introduction

- Who Wrote It . . . and When?
- Why Is It Still So Insightful?

II. Timeless Characteristics of a Contagious Ministry

Exposition

- It is always _____ (v. 1)
- Those involved _____ (v. 2)
- When tested _____ (vv. 3–7)
- Because of Jesus Christ _____ (vv. 8–10)

III. In Order to Sustain These Qualities, We Must . . .

Application