

## Set An Example Part 1

***“12 Let no man despise thy youth; but be thou an example of the believers, in word, in conversation, in charity, in spirit, in faith, in purity.” (1 Timothy 4:12 KJV)***

The example is the typical and the precise description of things that we ought to do and to be. To be an example is to be in the picture that God wants you to be. Paul wrote a letter to Timothy who was at young age, but he was having a ministry and good service unto God. He was diligent and persevering in His service to God. Paul wrote to him to encourage him and to support him in his walk and service to the Lord. He was telling him not to let anyone look down on him and belittle him because he was young. Paul was telling Timothy that even you are young in age, but as long as you are doing your best for the Lord you are a victorious person and God had put you as a head and not the tail.

God loved us and He sent His son the Lord Jesus Christ to save us from sin and death. ***“16 For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.” (John 3:16 KJV)*** Christ came to earth and lived a life that is exemplary for us to notice and to follow. Christ did the good works of God; He achieved miracles, raised people from the dead, healed the sick, drove out demons, and taught His disciples to follow God and to serve Him. Christ suffered for us to save us; He died on the cross for our sins, He was buried and rose from the dead on the third day to give eternal life to everyone who believed on Him and followed His step in life.

Therefore, ***“21 For even hereunto were ye called: because Christ also suffered for us, leaving us an example, that ye should follow his steps:” (1 Peter 2:21 KJV)*** We as believers we need to take the example of Christ and set an example to others of how to live and how to follow God and live for Him. Therefore, do not let anyone look down on you but set an example for believers in all the following aspects:-

***1. In word or speech:*** Your tongue and what you speak with your mouth represent who you are and the person whom you are serving. God call us to have a gracious speech full of hope and trust in God. We ought to speak the truth in love. God had called us to speak a thanksgiving word unto God and not grumbling. God gave us the tongue to speak His goodness and His faithfulness to others not to argue or complain. We need to present Christ to the world and to present ourselves as Christ’s servants and our full hope and trust in Him as an exemplary pattern for living. ***“5 Walk in wisdom toward them that are without, redeeming the time. 6 Let your speech be always with grace, seasoned with salt, that ye may know how ye ought to answer every man.” (Colossians 4:5-6 KJV)*** The people should be built up with the speech that they are hearing from our mouths. Therefore, ***“29 Let no corrupt communication proceed out of your mouth, but that which is good to the use of edifying, that it may minister grace unto the hearers.” (Ephesians 4:29 KJV)***

***2. In life and conversation:*** Our lives should be an example to others to follow Christ through observing what we are doing. A life of holiness and righteousness is that what God had called us to live. Our lives should show God’s grace and God’s blessing in our lives. God’s presence in our lives should be seen clearly by the people who are around us. The Word of God admonish us the following: ***“13 Who is a wise man and endued with knowledge among you?***

***let him shew out of a good conversation his works with meekness of wisdom.” (James 3:13 KJV)*** Good life will not come with expensive and high prestigious things. Good quality life comes from the living in obedience and submission to God’s will, and it comes through humbleness and humility to commit ourselves to obey God’s will and accept His plan for our lives.

***3. In charity:*** The true love of God, and not the foolish love of the world, is that what the Lord had called us to show to the world. God’s love is holiness and righteousness. We should not follow the romantic love that comes from the world, but the love of God that refrain us from doing sin. The Word of God admonish us the following: ***“8 Owe no man any thing, but to love one another: for he that loveth another hath fulfilled the law. 9 For this, Thou shalt not commit adultery, Thou shalt not kill, Thou shalt not steal, Thou shalt not bear false witness, Thou shalt not covet; and if there be any other commandment, it is briefly comprehended in this saying, namely, Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself. 10 Love worketh no ill to his neighbour: therefore love is the fulfilling of the law.” (Romans 13:8-10 KJV)*** Love should build others and not bring destructions to others by sinning against other human, invading his territory and taking his rights.

***4. In spirit:*** This can be reflected in the attitude of the person and what kind of spirit he shows in his relationships and in the actions that he is taking. For example in the expression of the fruit of the spirit, are we Christ like and having the same spirit of Him or we are moving by our own flesh and egos and putting aside what Christ dictate on us in the way we behave? Christ showed the same concern for such as we read what He said in the following occasion: ***“51 And it came to pass, when the time was come that he should be received up, he stedfastly set his face to go to Jerusalem, 52 And sent messengers before his face: and they went, and entered into a village of the Samaritans, to make ready for him. 53 And they did not receive him, because his face was as though he would go to Jerusalem. 54 And when his disciples James and John saw this, they said, Lord, wilt thou that we command fire to come down from heaven, and consume them, even as Elias did? 55 But he turned, and rebuked them, and said, Ye know not what manner of spirit ye are of. 56 For the Son of man is not come to destroy men's lives, but to save them. And they went to another village.” (Luke 9: 51-56 KJV)*** James and John acted so much in the flesh when they faced rejection and wanted to revenge but Christ rebuked them for what they did as he told them, ***“Ye know not what manner of spirit ye are of.”*** Therefore we should not go along our flesh and worldly passion and vent into anger in our dealings with people. As well as to set an example in the spirit is also in the way you exercise the spiritual gifts that God is giving you in your ministry and in your service unto others which reflect your zeal in the spirit toward God and what he had entrusted to you of services as we read in Romans, ***“11 Not slothful in business; fervent in spirit; serving the Lord;” (Romans 12:11 KJV)***; therefore we need to have zeal for God, for the ministry and for the church that He entrusted to us, in preaching the gospel and in reaching new souls and in making new disciples and training new workers to serve God.

***5. In faith:*** People should see the true and sincere faith in our lives that accompanied by obedience and submission to God’s will and commands. Faith should be accompanied by actions that truly represent our obedience to God’s Word and His commands. Faith without deed is dead as the Word of God tells us: ***“14 What doth it profit, my brethren, though a man say he hath faith, and have not works? can faith save him? 15 If a brother or sister be naked, and destitute of daily food, 16 And one of you say unto them, Depart in peace, be ye***

*warmed and filled; notwithstanding ye give them not those things which are needful to the body; what doth it profit? 17 Even so faith, if it hath not works, is dead, being alone.” (James 2:14-17 KJV) True faith should be shown and followed by good works, “10 For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus unto good works, which God hath before ordained that we should walk in them.” (Ephesians 2:10 KJV)*

**6. In purity:** Not only the walk is clear and in obedience to God, but the heart also should be pure. God’s weights the motive of the heart. We are called to purify our hearts from whatever evil thoughts and sin. The heart is the beginning for each and every sin as we can read here: *“19 For out of the heart proceed evil thoughts, murders, adulteries, fornications, thefts, false witness, blasphemies:” (Matthew 15:19 KJV)* Our hearts should be clean and have purity before God and should be empty from wrong motives. You can cheat people but not God.

Paul said, *“1 Be ye followers of me, even as I also am of Christ.” (1 Corinthians 11:1 KJV)* Example is a model or a pattern that people would use to follow. People are liable to copy and do what they see. Therefore whether it is a good example or bad example there will be people who will follow because they are not aware of what is the truth and what is right and what is wrong.

\* Therefore and based on the above fact after you received Christ as Savior and Lord you are called to set a good example for others to follow. \* Such you will achieve by following the steps of Christ in denying yourselves, carrying the cross after Him, willing to lay aside your own plan and will and suffer for Him. If you do that then certainly and confidently you can say, *“1 Be ye followers of me, even as I also am of Christ.” (1 Corinthians 11:1 KJV)*

*“31 Whether therefore ye eat, or drink, or whatsoever ye do, do all to the glory of God.” (1 Corinthians 10:31 KJV)* For example in eating: What you eat, expensive or affordable food? You budget your money and cook good food at home, or you eat in restaurants and waste your money and resources? Even in drinking: what you drink, water which is the most healthy drink or soft drinks and canned juices? *In whatever you do people are looking and watching you and they might imitate you and copy what you are doing. Therefore do what is right so others will learn what is right.*

*“32 Give none offence, neither to the Jews, nor to the Gentiles, nor to the church of God:” (1 Corinthians 10:32 KJV)* When you live in disobedience to God and to His will then you are setting a bad example to others to follow and in this way you will cause them to stumble and sin against God.

Paul said to the Philippians the following: *“17 Brethren, be followers together of me, and mark them which walk so as ye have us for an ensample.” (Philippians 3:17 KJV)* Paul showed the people and gave them a pattern to follow. He instructed them to take note of those who live according to the pattern he gave them. *As you receive this message we instruct you as well to live according the pattern that we gave you. Those who follow the same pattern take notice of them, and avoid those who do not follow the pattern we gave you.*

Paul spoke and warned the Philippians that way because there were many Christians at the time of Paul who lived in sin and disobedience to Christ, *“18 (For many walk, of whom I have told you often, and now tell you even weeping, that they are the enemies of the cross of Christ:*

*19 Whose end is destruction, whose God is their belly, and whose glory is in their shame, who mind earthly things.)” (Philippians 3:18-19 KJV)* Now a day many Christians they live in sin and disobedience to Christ and you need to avoid them and totally cut all your relationships with them unless they repent and be willing to live according to the pattern we gave you.

*“20 For our conversation is in heaven; from whence also we look for the Saviour, the Lord Jesus Christ: 21 Who shall change our vile body, that it may be fashioned like unto his glorious body, according to the working whereby he is able even to subdue all things unto himself.” (Philippians 3:20-21 KJV)* Jesus is coming back soon and you need to be ready. If you will go and be with people who are called Christians but they are disobedient who are living in sin and spend with them what you have on pleasure, food and dress, then they are a snare to you and they will destroy you. Move from such people and be ready so that when Jesus will come you will be meeting the Lord with us, *“16 Holding forth the word of life; that I may rejoice in the day of Christ, that I have not run in vain, neither laboured in vain.” (Philippians 2:16 KJV)*

*“9 Those things, which ye have both learned, and received, and heard, and seen in me, do: and the God of peace shall be with you.” (Philippians 4:9 KJV)* Whatever you had learned through Bible study, or received from me through letter and messages, or heard through sermons, or seen from my life and example then put it into practice. As you endeavor to do the same and practice how we live and follow the pattern that we gave you, then peace and the God of peace shall be with you.

Paul said to Timothy, *“12 Let no man despise thy youth; but be thou an example of the believers, in word, in conversation, in charity, in spirit, in faith, in purity.” (1 Timothy 4:12 KJV)* Paul instructed Timothy to set a good example to the believers and not to let anyone to look down on Him because he was young. *The point here, if you are not a good example, others who know Christ will look down on you and not respect you.*

Timothy was just a young man and he was pasturing the church at Ephesus, and the questions here how he reached to that level of ministry and the stage of understanding and the knowledge of God’s Word?

Paul told Timothy the following: *“14 But continue thou in the things which thou hast learned and hast been assured of, knowing of whom thou hast learned them; 15 And that from a child thou hast known the holy scriptures, which are able to make thee wise unto salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus.” (2 Timothy 3:14-15 KJV)* Timothy knew the Scripture from the age of infancy and that enabled him to be God’s servant from his young age.

But who taught Timothy the Scripture at that stage? Paul said to Timothy *“5 When I call to remembrance the unfeigned faith that is in thee, which dwelt first in thy grandmother Lois, and thy mother Eunice; and I am persuaded that in thee also.” (2 Timothy 1:5 KJV)* Timothy was taught by his mother and grandmother that was why he knew the Scripture from young age. He was reading and taught the Scripture during family prayer and worship. Therefore when Paul met him he was ready to be trained and equipped for service and righteousness. *The life of Timothy is a good example to you to learn how to raise your children*

in the ways of the Lord. You need to teach your children to read the Bible, every one of them should have his own Bible, and you need daily to read the Bible with them, worship and pray.

Paul also highly praised Timothy when he spoke about him the following: ***“19 But I trust in the Lord Jesus to send Timotheus shortly unto you, that I also may be of good comfort, when I know your state. 20 For I have no man likeminded, who will naturally care for your state. 21 For all seek their own, not the things which are Jesus Christ's. 22 But ye know the proof of him, that, as a son with the father, he hath served with me in the gospel.” (Philippians 2:19-22 KJV)*** Timothy was faithful, accountable and reliable to perform the task of the Lord. He was faithful to the Lord and to His Word, and He was faithful to those who taught him the Word of God and was faithful to Paul and the church that trained him to do God's service. He is an example that worthy to be followed!

***My dear and beloved:*** Jesus said, ***“16 Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven.” (Matthew 5:16 KJV)*** God call us to be a good example, God call us to be light for others to bring the difference. We are challenged with the Word of God in this message, therefore we need to take the full responsibility and be the kind of people that God would expect us to be.

Let us pray ...

***My Prayer:*** Father God I come before you in the name of Jesus who died on the Cross for my sins and rose from the dead to give me eternal life. Lord thank you for your Word that describes to me the way that you want me to be and how to be set a good example to others to follow. Lord thank you for all the corrections, the rebukes and the admonishments we received in this message.

*Repent and renounce all your sins. Renounce your pride, anger, fights, unforgiveness, speaking bad words, and your lack of faith and love. Repent of your grumbling, complaining, laziness, your carelessness about the things of God and your non willingness to serve Him. Repent of your worldliness, your greed and your love for material things. Renounce your selfishness and your bad example to others around you. Renounce your worldliness, your greed and your love for material things. Repent of your lack of prayer and reading God's Word. Repent of doing your own will and plan and not the will nor the plan of God. Repent of your lack of the fruit of the Spirit. Lord I repent, forgive me, I renounce the following sins \_\_\_\_\_ .*

*Lord I commit myself to live in obedience to your instructions, to fear you, abiding in your Word, being a good example and a pattern for others to learn and follow. Lord grant me patient and the long suffering to be in the level of your expectation. Lord guide me, help me and cleanse me from all my sins. Lord I repent; I understand your will that you had called me to be an example to others that they would see you through me. Lord give me more of your character and personality in my life and more of your fruit of the Holy Spirit. Enable me Lord to be the person that you want me to be; this is my prayer in Jesus name, Amen.*

*Lord thank you for my Brothers and Sisters who repented of their sins and committed their lives to you to follow your Word and to set good example to others to follow. Lord add to them more of the fruit of the Spirit, love, joy, peace, gentleness, kindness, faith, humility, self-control, long-suffering, and perseverance so people will see Christ in them as they go on and*

*serve you and do the good works that you entrusted to them. Lord help them to persevere, protect them and provide for them to continue to serve you.*

*Lord bless us as a church and help us to implement fully your Word that we learned in this message in the life of your church. Lord we commit ourselves to live in holiness, away from sin, to forgive those who hurt us, and to reproduce more fruit of the Holy Spirit and to set good example to others. Lord refill us once again with your Holy Spirit, and with your love so that we can go forward and do the mission work that you entrusted us to do. Lord lead us to evangelize and reach new people and serve them, and make new disciples and train new workers, planting new Bible studies and congregations for the church. Lord lead us to be service providers, and compassionate; serving and loving the people that we are reaching out. Lord fulfill the vision of the church, 'Multiplication in peace with implementing the whole will of God'. Lord bless us, enlarge our territory, let your hand be with us and free us from harm so we will not feel pain. May the grace of the Lord Jesus, and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with us all in Jesus name, Amen.*

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