

## The Virtue of Example

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### Titus 2:1-8

- To Be An Example Worth Following ...
- Distinctive discipleship is needed today to provide a positive influence that is too scarce in the world.
- Christians who live, talk, and behave like everyone else in the world cannot be the salt of the earth and the light of the world (Mat. 5:13-16).
- Everyone is an example of one kind or another, either worldly or godly...
- Discipleship must be distinctive in order to make a difference (Rom. 12:1-2).

### FOLLOW A Good Example

- 1 Pet. 2:21 – The Lord lived to leave us an example.
- Col. 3:17, 23-24 – Word or deed done by Christ's authority and for His glory is a sure win!
- Heb. 13:7 “Remember those who rule over you, who have spoken the word of God to you, whose faith follow, considering the outcome of their conduct.” Cf. Acts 20:35.
- 1 Cor. 11:1 – Paul said that the way to follow him is to follow Christ.
- Lk. 9:23-26 – Following Jesus is not always easy, but it is always right, and always worth the effort!

### Be A POSITIVE Example

- 2 Tim. 1:5 – Like Lois and Eunice...
- Parents & grandparents make the first impressions – good examples start at home, not after loved ones have gone astray.
- Pro. 13:22; 17:6 – Grandparents are second only to parents in influencing young people.
- 1 Tim. 4:12 “Let no one despise your youth, but be an example to the believers in word, in conduct, in love, in spirit, in faith, in purity.”
- Timothy followed good examples!

### Be A CHRISTLIKE Example

- Mat. 19:13-14 – Accessible & available to children & treated them kindly & patiently.
- Jas. 4:17; 1 Jn. 3:4 – By OMISSION OR COMISSION... What we DON'T DO or DON'T SAY is as important as what we Do or SAY!
- Mat. 18:6 – Causing little ones to stumble, by any means, is a grievous sin!
- Paul gives a great summary in Titus 2:1-8...
  - 2:1 – In speech – which is proper for sound doctrine.
  - 2:2 – In character – sober, reverent, temperate, sound in faith, in love, in patience.
  - 2:3 – In behavior – reverent, not slanderers, not given to much wine, teachers of good things.
  - 2:4 – In teaching – admonish the young women to love their husbands, love their children...
  - 2:5 – In purity, humility, and modesty – discreet, chaste, homemakers, good, obedient to their own husbands, that the word of God may not be blasphemed.
  - 2:6 – In responsibility & accountability – “Likewise, exhort the young men to be sober-minded”
- Pro. 22:6 – Not to be taken lightly or done halfheartedly!
- 1 Pet. 3:3-4 – Peter's instruction is good for men, too!

### Decision... **Philippians 1:21**

- Can Jesus be seen by our love? – Jn. 13:34-35
- By our obedience? – Jn. 14:15; 15:14
- By our purity of life? – Jn. 3:3; Mat. 5:8
- So, whose example influences you the most?
- Will you accept the responsibility to be a good example for your family and others?
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- Is your reaction to the Gospel is an indicator?