

Subject: Importance of Example

Text: 1 Timothy 4:12

Method: Textual

**Title: An Excellent Example to Illustrate**

General Purpose: Examine the importance of example in life.

Specific Purpose: Show how example in a powerful influence to wield for good, or evil.

Thesis Sentence: Example may not have the most profound influence, but it has the broadest, and is the most revealing of a persons spiritual condition.

**Introduction**

- A. Examples to imitate and follow have great effect (compare 2 Chron. 17:3-5 with 2 Chron. 22:2-4)
- B. To set good example, must follow good example (1 Cor. 11:1; 1 Pet. 2:21)
- C. Christians must provide good example, and pattern to be followed (1 Tim. 4:12; Tit. 2:7-8; 1 Pet. 2:11-17)
  - 1. Christians are purchased people (1 Cor 6:20; 1 Pet. 1:18-19).
  - 2. Since Christians have been redeemed by the blood of Christ they must be careful how they live (Eph. 4:1).

**I. Set a good example in purity (1 Cor. 6:15-20).**

- A. In verse 1 the word translated "temple" means the "innermost sanctuary, comparable to the "most holy place.)
  - 1. Must be pure in heart (Mat. 5:8).
  - 2. Pure in speech (1 Pet. 3:10; Col. 4:6; Jas. 3:10).
  - 3. Pure in life and work (2 Cor. 7:1; Eph. 2:10).
- B. Christians have an obligation to stay pure and love not the world (Jas. 1:27; 1 Jn. 2:16-17; Rom 12:2; 1 Thes. 5:21-22).
  - 1. Purity can be maintained by reading and relying upon God's Word (Psa. 119:11; 1 Jn 3:9; 1 Pet. 1:22-23).
  - 2. By thinkin on the hope of heaven (1 Jn. 3:1-3).
  - 3. By assembling and admonition (Heb 10:24).
  - 4. By being disciplined personally (1 Cor. 9:26-27; Mat. 5:2-30) and congregationally (Rom. 16:19-20; 1 Cor. 5:7-13).
  - 5. Heaven is a PURE PLACE for PURE PEOPLE (Rev. 21:27; 22:14-15).

**II. We are not our own, we belong to God (1 Cor. 6:15-20).**

- A. We have been purchased by the blood of Christ (Acts 20:28; Rev. 5:9) thus we must be devoted to God (1 Cor.7:23).
- B. Redeemed by the blood of Christ (1 Pet. 1:18-19).
  - 1. Peter concluded we must put away sin (2:1).
  - 2. See also 2:11-17; 21-25.
- C. We are either God's or the Devil's (Rom. 6:16; Mat. 6:24).
  - 1. The sinner cannot redeem himself.
  - 2. If Christ had not redeemed us we would have remained the servants of sin forever.
  - 3. Since Jesus paid the price we belong to Him:
    - a) Keep Hid commandmentd (Mat. 17:5; John 14:15; 15:14).
    - b) Obey His gospel (Heb. 5:8-9).
    - c) Flee from all sin (1 Tim. 6:11-12; 1 Thes. 5:22).
    - d) Glorify Him (Mat. 5:16; 1 Cor. 10:31).

**III. A Totally New Life sets a Totally Good Example.**

- A. We must be willing to forsake all for Christ (Phil. 3:7-11; Mat. 10:37; 16:24-27).
  - 1. No middle ground (Mat. 12:30).
  - 2. Lay aside all that would hinder us (Mat 5.:29-30; Lk. 9:23; 10:27; Heb. 12:1-2).

3. Not become entangled in the affairs of this world (2 Tim. 2:4).
- B. Must be separate from the world (Mat. 6:24; Jn. 17:18-19; Rom. 8:5; 12:1-2; 1 Cor. 6:17-18; Jas. 4:4; Jn. 2:16-17).
  1. The young man of Mark 10:17-22 loved his money too much to give it up for the Lord. Where is our affection? (Col. 3:1-3).
  2. Anytime we set our affections on the things of this world to the extent that they come between us and God we have become the enemy of God.
- C. Our new life should be Christ living in us (Gal. 2:20).
  1. Christ should be seen in our lives (Jas. 2:14-18).
  2. He should be seen by our work (Jas. 2:18).
  3. By our love (Gal. 5:6; Jn. 13:34-35).
  4. By our obedience (Jn. 14:15; 15:14; Rom 1:5; 16:26).
  5. By our purity of life (Act 15:9; Jn. 3:3; Mat. 5:8).
  6. Our life in Christ spotlights God (Mat. 5:16).

**Conclusion:**

- A. Let the difference that Christ has made to us be seen in us (Eph. 5:21; Rom 12:1-2).
- B. Realize that a change is to take place when one puts away the man of sin and becomes a New Creature.
- C. Examples have great effect (compare 2 Chron. 17:3-5 with 2 Chron. 22:2-4)
  1. To set good example, must follow good example (1 Cor. 11:1; 1 Pet. 2:21)
  2. Christians must provide good example, and pattern to be followed (1 Tim. 4:12; Tit. 2:7-8; 1 Pet. 2:11-17)
    - a. Christians are purchased people (1 Cor 6:20; 1 Pet. 1:18-19).
    - b. Since Christians have been redeemed by the blood of Christ they must be careful how they live (Eph. 4:1).
  3. Set good example by living a pure, new life
  4. Remember that we are not our own -- we belong to the Christ who bought us
  5. Determine to live the New Life in Christ, so that by good example, used to reinforce sound words, you might have, and help instill in others a faith that will not shrink.

Randall F. Matheny  
PO Box 911, Warren, PA 16365