

**Be a godly example for others****Text: 1 Timothy 4:12**

## Introduction

- A. Tonight begins a series of lessons on Social Sins/Issues that the members requested. I have given you an outline of the topics which are in alphabetical order. If there is a subject that some of you men would like to teach see me and I will schedule to teach. Right now I will be teaching.
- B. I felt it important to begin this series with a lesson on being a godly example for others. Many of these sins you see listed here have hurt Christians and the church. In many cases Christians do not seem all that different from the world. Yet the Bible teaches us that we are to be different. We are going to look at some verses tonight in hopes that they will help each one of us to be a better example. The Bible repeatedly appeals to the power of example. Note the following:
- C. The Greek New Testament contains several terms that are rendered by the English word “example.”
- a. **Jude 7.** The word deigma denotes that which is shown, hence, a specimen. Jude declares that the permanent destruction of wicked Sodom and Gomorrah serves as an “example” of the eternal punishment of hell.
  - b. **Hebrews 4:11.** The term hupodeigma, literally, “to show under,” suggests a model, either for good or bad. We should not follow Israel’s “example” of apostasy in the wilderness.
  - c. The Greek tupos denotes a print (cf. John 20:25); or it can suggest a “pattern” (Hebrews 8:5). Thus, elders are to be “examples” to the flock of God (1 Peter 5:3).
  - d. **1 Timothy 1:16; 2 Timothy 1:13.** Hupotuposis in secular Greek was an outline or sketch. In the New Testament it can denote a behavioral example or a pattern of doctrine.
  - e. **1 Peter 2:21.** The word hupogrammos (literally “to write under,” was employed in ancient Greek for a child’s writing exercise in copying the alphabet. This term is used to describe the “example” of the sinless Christ who passively endured suffering and confidently committed His care unto the Father.
- D. Some Facts About Example
- a. God Is Our Example-
    - i. The Lord commanded his ancient people: “You shall be holy; for I Jehovah your God am holy” (Leviticus 19:2).
    - ii. Similarly, Christ admonished: “You therefore shall be perfect, as your heavenly Father is perfect” (Matthew 5:48).
    - iii. The example of Jehovah’s lovingkindness was a great motivation in David’s life (Psalm 26:3).
    - iv. Heaven’s example in extending forgiveness for our transgressions can surely encourage us to be compassionate concerning those who have offended us (see Ephesians 4:32).
  - b. Christ Is Our Example-

- i. Jesus was such a marvelous pattern in a great variety of ways. He was an example of righteous living; He never yielded to sin (Hebrews 4:15).
- ii. He delighted in doing His Father's will (Psalm 40:8)
- iii. and pursued that course with diligence (John 8:29).
- iv. The Lord was a fitting example in serving (John 13:15) and in suffering (1 Peter 2:21ff).
- v. There is a vivid commentary on the influence of Christ in the book of Acts. We are told that the Jewish rulers, in observing Peter and John, "took knowledge of them that they had been with Jesus" (4:13). What a commentary on the Savior! With this said we now turn to us as Christians.<sup>i</sup>

## Body

### I. Christians Are To Be Good Examples

- A. Paul frequently urges the readers of his epistles to follow his example to the extent that such reflects the life of Christ.
  - a. To the Corinthians he wrote: "Be ye imitators of me, even as I also am of Christ" (1 Corinthians 11:1).
  - b. "Even though you have ten thousand guardians in Christ, you do not have many fathers, for in Christ Jesus I became your father through the gospel. Therefore I urge you to imitate me" (1 Corinthians 4:15-16).
  - c. "For you yourselves know how you ought to follow our example. We were not idle when we were with you, nor did we eat anyone's food without paying for it. On the contrary, we worked night and day, laboring and toiling so that we would not be a burden to any of you" (2 Thessalonians 3:7-8).
  - d. "You know how we lived among you for your sake. You became imitators of us and of the Lord; in spite of severe suffering, you welcomed the message with the joy given by the Holy Spirit. And so you became a model to all the believers in Macedonia and Achaia" (1 Thessalonians 1:5-7).
  - e. Paul encouraged Timothy to be an example to other believers "in word, in manner of life, in love, in faith, in purity" (1 Timothy 4:12).
    - i. Regardless of age and position in the church, what can each believer do to be an example according to 1 Tim. 4:12?
    - ii. Do we see these command else where in the NT?
- B. The Bible clearly states Christians Are To Be Good Examples.
  - a. That is why Peter tells the Christian woman who is married to an unbeliever that if she cannot reach her spouse with verbal instruction in the Word, perhaps she, without uttering a word, could convince him by her manner of life (1 Peter 3:1).
    - i. No matter who you are, others are looking at you and being influenced by your example. Without a doubt many have been a bad example to other Christians at one point or another, sometimes to someone who is weaker or a new brother or sister in the faith.
  - b. Notice what Jesus teaches in Matthew 5:13-16.

- i. What is Jesus teaching here in Mt. 5:13-16?
    - ii. What does it mean to be light and salt?
    - iii. How does He teach us to be light and salt?
    - iv. How do we identify hypocrisy versus human imperfection?
  - c. Jesus warns us never to set a bad example and cause others to sin
    - i. "Anyone who breaks one of the least of these commandments and teaches others to do the same will be called least in the kingdom of heaven, but whoever practices and teaches these commands will be called great in the kingdom of heaven" (Matthew 5:19).
    - ii. "But if anyone causes one of these little ones who believe in me to sin, it would be better for him to have a large millstone hung around his neck and to be drowned in the depths of the sea" (Matthew 18:6).
    - iii. Don't put a stumbling block in another person's way "Therefore let us stop passing judgment on one another. Instead, make up your mind not to put any stumbling block or obstacle in your brother's way" (Romans 14:13).
    - iv. Give up that which is in itself indifferent "Let us therefore make every effort to do what leads to peace and to mutual edification. Do not destroy the work of God for the sake of food. All food is clean, but it is wrong for a man to eat anything that causes someone else to stumble. It is better not to eat meat or drink wine or to do anything else that will cause your brother to fall" (Romans 14:19-21).
    - v. "Be careful, however, that the exercise of your freedom does not become a stumbling block to the weak. For if anyone with a weak conscience sees you who have this knowledge eating in an idol's temple, won't he be emboldened to eat what has been sacrificed to idols? So this weak brother, for whom Christ died, is destroyed by your knowledge. When you sin against your brothers in this way and wound their weak conscience, you sin against Christ. Therefore, if what I eat causes my brother to fall into sin, I will never eat meat again, so that I will not cause him to fall" (1 Corinthians 8:9-13).
- C. Ways Christians can be good examples?
  - a. What are some ways that we can be good examples?
    - 1. With our speech, Colossians 4:6 says; Let your conversation be always full of grace, seasoned with salt, so that you may know how to answer everyone.
      - a. Matt.12:36-37
      - b. Col 3:17 And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.
    - 2. The way we live our lives. Romans 1:17, Hab.2:4, "The righteous will live by his faith."(WE HAVE A SET OF STANDARDS)

3. The way we love others. John 13:35, “By this all men will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another.”
4. The way we demonstrate our faith. “We live it”
  - a. Prayer Mt. 21:21-22
  - b. Staying the course Act 14:22
5. In purity. Philippians 4:8, “Finally, brothers, whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable—if anything is excellent or praiseworthy—think about such things.”
  - a. List of Social sins, can we say we are truly putting this verse into practice when participate in these sins?
6. Influence others. People will see your example! People are watching our lives, and we should present a good example for God!
  - a. Rom.14:7
  - b. 1 Cor. 15:33

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<sup>i</sup> The Power of Example July 20, 2000 by Wayne Jackson