

## Examples Worth Following

We learn proper behavior by watching and listening to others whom we respect. We can be influenced to do good or to do bad. We tend to behave like those with whom we associate with the most. Who is influencing us and who are we influencing?

Of course, spiritually, our primary example to follow would be the Lord Jesus Christ. Jesus came to give us life and to give it more abundantly (**John 10:10**). Jesus said His food was to do the work His Father gave Him and to finish His work (**John 4:34**). Jesus said that if we love Him, we will keep His commandments (**John 14:15**). His commandments are not burdensome or grievous (**1 John 5:3**).

Jesus is our example on how we are not to please ourselves but to please one another for their good that leads to edification (**Romans 15:1-3**). We are to walk in love towards one another as Christ has loved us (**Ephesians 5:1-2; John 13:34-35**). We are to have the same love for one another (**Philippians 2:2-5**). Jesus is also our example of how we are to suffer patiently when we are mistreated (**1 Peter 2:20-23**).

The apostle Paul and other New Testament Christians also provide us with wonderful examples worth following. Paul said we should be an imitator of him as he imitated Christ (**1 Corinthians 11:1**). Paul did not seek his own profit, but the profit of others that they may be saved (**1 Corinthians 10:33**). Paul desired that those who heard him preach and teach the gospel would do what he taught (**Philippians 4:9**).

The Scriptures give us examples in following the pattern of Christian living (**Philippians 3:17**). We are to imitate those who through faith and patience will inherit the promises (**Hebrews 6:12**). We are to follow the faith of those who rule over us as we consider the outcome of their faith (**Hebrews 13:7**). Therefore, as fellow workers together in the kingdom of God we plead with each other do not to receive the grace of God in vain (**2 Corinthians 6:1-2**).

What kind of example are we setting as a Christian to those around us in the world (**Philippians 2:15**)? Are we showing the world the joy of what it means to be a Christian (**Matthew 5:16**)? Are we showing new Christians what maturity means as a growing disciple (**2 Peter 3:18**)? Is our example as a Christian helping others to be stronger in Christ (**Romans 15:1-2**)?

Is our example as a Christian helping the spiritual growth of the congregation (**1 Corinthians 12:12-27**)? Are we offering a consistent pattern of faithful attendance as the congregation gathers together (**Hebrews 10:24-25**)? Are we setting a good example of developing our abilities for Christ (i.e. **Matthew 25:14-23**)? Are we providing a worthy model of involvement in the service to the Lord and His church (**Ephesians 4:12-13**)?

Would we want the children or new Christians to follow our example of being a Christian (**Romans 12:1-2**)? Would the church be stronger (**Romans 12:3-8**)? Would the church be growing (**2 Peter 3:18**)? Is our example helping or hindering the cause of Christ? Are we setting our mind on the things above, not on the things on the earth (**Colossians 3:1-2**)?

We are to be an example to (of) the believer in our words, conduct, love, spirit, faith and purity

**(1 Timothy 4:12)**. We cannot escape being an example to others. Our only choice is what kind of example will we be. Prayerfully we will be one of the many whose example is worth following. It is our prayer and heart's desire that heaven will be home for each one. Let us strive together for that heavenly reward.

Something to think about!

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