

**BE AN
EXAMPLE**

1 TIMOTHY 4:12-16

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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.

13 Till I come, give attendance to reading, to exhortation, to doctrine.

14 Neglect not the gift that is in thee, which was given thee by prophecy, with the laying on of the hands of the presbytery.

15 Meditate upon these things; give thyself wholly to them; that thy profiting may appear to all.

16 Take heed unto thyself, and unto the doctrine; continue in them: for in doing this thou shalt both save thyself, and them that hear thee.

Introduction

A. We need to follow good examples

Philippians 3:17

Brethren, be followers together of me, and mark them which walk so as ye have us for an ensample.

Introduction

B. We need to avoid bad examples

1 Corinthians 10:6, 11

6 Now these things were our examples, to the intent we should not lust after evil things, as they also lusted.

11 Now all these things happened unto them for examples: and they are written for our admonition, upon whom the ends of the world are come.

Romans 16:17

Now I beseech you, brethren, mark them which cause divisions and offences contrary to the doctrine which ye have learned; and avoid them.

Introduction

C. Christ is our example

John 13:15

For I have given you an example, that ye should do as I have done to you.

1 Corinthians 11:1

Be ye followers of me, even as I also am of Christ.

D. The challenges of being an example (vv 13-16)

1. Don't stop (v 13)

2. Don't forget (vv 14-15)

3. Don't give in (v 16)

I. Be An Example In Word (Speech)

A. Reveals our heart

Matthew 12:34-37

34 O generation of vipers, how can ye, being evil, speak good things? for out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaketh.

35 A good man out of the good treasure of the heart bringeth forth good things: and an evil man out of the evil treasure bringeth forth evil things.

36 But I say unto you, That every idle word that men shall speak, they shall give account thereof in the day of judgment.

37 For by thy words thou shalt be justified, and by thy words thou shalt be condemned.

I. Be An Example In Word (Speech)

B. Reveals our level of self control

James 3:2

For in many things we offend all. If any man offend not in word, the same is a perfect man, and able also to bridle the whole body.

II. Be An Example In Conversation (Conduct)

A. Righteous conduct

1 Peter 1:15

But as he which hath called you is holy, so be ye holy in all manner of conversation;

Ephesians 4:22

That ye put off concerning the former conversation the old man, which is corrupt according to the deceitful lusts;

II. Be An Example In Conversation (Conduct)

B. Revealed conduct

1 Peter 2:12

Having your conversation honest among the Gentiles: that, whereas they speak against you as evildoers, they may by your good works, which they shall behold, glorify God in the day of visitation.

Titus 2:10

Not purloining, but shewing all good fidelity; that they may adorn the doctrine of God our Saviour in all things.

II. Be An Example In Conversation (Conduct)

C. Repeating conduct

1 Peter 3:16

Having a good conscience; that, whereas they speak evil of you, as of evildoers, they may be ashamed that falsely accuse your good conversation in Christ.

III. Be An Example In Charity (Love)

A. Reveals spiritual life

1. Born of God

1 John 4:7

Beloved, let us love one another: for love is of God; and every one that loveth is born of God, and knoweth God.

2. Belief in God

Galatians 5:6

For in Jesus Christ neither circumcision availeth any thing, nor uncircumcision; but faith which worketh by love.

III. Be An Example In Charity (Love)

B. Reveals a surrendered life

1. In superiority

John 15:13

Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends.

2. In substance

Romans 13:10

Love worketh no ill to his neighbour: therefore love is the fulfilling of the law.

III. Be An Example In Charity (Love)

B. Reveals a surrendered life - continued

3. In sight

John 13:35

By this shall all *men* know that ye are my disciples, if ye have love one to another.

IV. Be An Example In Spirit (Power And Agency)

A. Enabling power

2 Timothy 1:7

For God hath not given us the spirit of fear; but of power, and of love, and of a sound mind.

B. Evangelistic power

1 Corinthians 2:4

And my speech and my preaching *was* not with enticing words of man's wisdom, but in demonstration of the Spirit and of power:

V. Be An Example In Faith (Faithfulness)

A. And hold fast

1 Timothy 1:14

Hold fast the form of sound words, which thou hast heard of me, in faith and love which is in Christ Jesus.

B. And help others

1 Corinthians 4:1-2

1 Let a man so account of us, as of the ministers of Christ, and stewards of the mysteries of God.

2 Moreover it is required in stewards, that a man be found faithful.

VI. Be An Example In Purity (Cleanness)

A. Stay away from sin

1. Don't relate to sin

1 Timothy 5:22

Lay hands suddenly on no man, neither be partaker of other men's sins: keep thyself pure.

2. Don't resign to sin

Romans 13:14

But put ye on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make not provision for the flesh, to fulfil the lusts thereof.

VI. Be An Example In Purity (Cleanness)

A. Stay away from sin - continued

3. Don't rebel by sin

Psalm 19:13

Keep back thy servant also from presumptuous sins; let them not have dominion over me: then shall I be upright, and I shall be innocent from the great transgression.

VI. Be An Example In Purity (Cleanness)

B. Stay attuned

Proverbs 13:22

**Righteousness keepeth him that is upright in the way:
but wickedness overthroweth the sinner.**

Be The Example!!