

Messenger Of Truth

"Holding forth the Word of Life" (Phil. 2:16).

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Example

"A good example is the best sermon." – Thomas Fuller, M.D.

"Somebody is looking at God through you." – Lewis Timberlake

"Others follow in your footsteps quicker than they follow your advice." – Anonymous

"The conduct of our lives is the true mirror of our doctrine." – Michel de Montaigne, *Essays*, "Of the Education of Children"

Someone once remarked that, "no one is completely worthless, they can always serve as a bad example." Well, that is not exactly the goal we have in mind. The child of God should seek to be a good example.

As Paul wrote the troubled church at Corinth, he said, "You are our epistle written in our hearts, known and read by all men; clearly you are an epistle of Christ, ministered by us, written not with ink but by the Spirit of the living God, not on tablets of stone but on tablets of flesh, that is, of the heart" (2 Cor. 3:2-3). The idea of being a living, walking letter is a bit intimidating. It suggests that we are i.e. advertisements for Christ. And since that is the case, we need to make sure that our advertisement is a good one. Otherwise, we will serve as a bad example.

One of the great challenges in the New Testament was Paul's letter to the young preacher Timothy. His charge was not easy. "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" (1 Tim. 4:12). That was a pretty tall order. Timothy was at a disadvantage due to his age. Among the Hebrews one was considered young till the age of 40. No doubt others that he was trying to teach were older, and older folks have a tendency not to listen to the younger generation. Timothy needed to rise above that. And Paul tells him that one way to do that was to serve as a good example.

Our Lord left us an example to emulate. The apostle Peter writes, "For to this you were called, because Christ also suffered for us, leaving us an example, that you should follow His steps: 'Who committed no sin, nor was deceit found in His mouth'; who, when He was reviled, did not revile in return; when He suffered, He did not threaten, but committed Himself to Him who judges righteously" (1 Pet. 2:21-23).

Never under estimate your example. And lest you think you are not noticed, remember Paul's words, "For none of us lives to himself, and no one dies to himself" (Rom. 14:7). So then, how is your example?