

# Set an Example

***“Don't let anyone look down on you because you are young, but set an example for the believers in speech, in life, in love, in faith and in purity.” (1 Timothy 4:12)***

The example is the typical and the precise description of things that we ought to do and to be. To be an example is to be in the picture that God wants you to be. Paul wrote a letter to Timothy who was at young age, but he was having a ministry and good service unto God. He was diligent and persevering in His service to God. Paul wrote to him to encourage him and to support him in his walk and service unto God. He is telling him not to let anyone look down on him and belittle him because he is young. Paul was telling Timothy that even you are young in age, but as long as you are doing your best for the Lord you are a victorious person and God had put you as a head and not the tail.

God loved us and he sent His son the Lord Jesus Christ to save us from sin and death. ***“For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.” (John 3:16)*** Christ came to earth and lived a life that is exemplary for us to notice and to follow. Christ did the good work of God; He achieved miracles, raised people from the dead, healed the sick, drove out demons, and taught His disciples to follow God and to serve Him. Christ suffered for us to save us; He died on the cross for our sins, He was buried and rose from the dead on the third day to give eternal life to everyone who believe on Him and followed His step in life.

Therefore, ***“To this you were called, because Christ suffered for you, leaving you an example, that you should follow in his steps.” (1 Peter 2:21)*** We as believers we need to take the example of Christ and set an example to others of how to live and how to follow God and live for Him. Therefore, do not let anyone look down on you but set an example for believers in all the following aspects:-

**1- Speech:** Your tongue and what you speak with your mouth represent who are you and the person whom you are serving. God call us to have a speech full of hope and trust in God. We ought to speak the truth in love. God had called us to speak a thanksgiving Word unto God and not grumbling. God gave us the tongue to speak His goodness and His faithfulness to others not to argue or complain. We need to present Christ to the World and to present ourselves as Christ servants and our full hope and trust in Him as an exemplary pattern for living. ***“Be wise in the way you act toward outsiders; make the most of every opportunity. Let your conversation be always full of grace, seasoned with salt, so that you may know how to answer everyone.” (Colossians 4:5-6)*** The people should be built up with the speech that they are hearing from our mouths. Therefore, ***“Do not let any unwholesome talk come out of your mouths, but only what is helpful for building others up according to their needs, that it may benefit those who listen.” (Ephesians 4:29)***

**2- Life:** Our lives should be an example to others to follow Christ through observing what we are doing. A life of holiness and righteousness is that what God had called us to live. Our lives should show God's grace and God's blessing in our lives. God's presence in our lives should be seen clearly by the people who are around us. The Word of God admonish us the following: ***“Who is wise and understanding among you? Let him show it by his***

***good life, by deeds done in the humility that comes from wisdom.” (James 3:13)*** Good life will not come with expensive and high prestigious things. Good quality life comes from the living in obedience and submission to God's will, and it comes through humbleness and humility to commit ourselves to obey God's will and accept His plan for our lives.

**3- Love:** The true love of God, and not the foolish love of the world, is that what the Lord had called us to show to the world. God's love is holiness and righteousness. We should not follow the romantic love that comes from the world, but the love of God that refrain us from doing sin. The word of God admonish us the following: ***“Let no debt remain outstanding, except the continuing debt to love one another, for he who loves his fellowman has fulfilled the law. The commandments, “Do not commit adultery,” “Do not murder,” “Do not steal,” “Do not covet,” and whatever other commandment there may be, are summed up in this one rule: “Love your neighbor as yourself.” Love does no harm to its neighbor. Therefore love is the fulfillment of the law.” (Romans 13:8-10)*** Love should build others and not bring destructions to others by sinning against other human, invade his territory and take his rights.

**4- Faith:** People should see in us the true and sincere faith in our lives that accompanied by obedience and submission to God's will and commands. Faith should be accompanied by actions that truly represent our obedience to God's Word and His commands. Faith without deed is dead as the Word of God tells us: ***“What good is it, my brothers, if a man claims to have faith but has no deeds? Can such faith save him? Suppose a brother or sister is without clothes and daily food. If one of you says to him, “Go, I wish you well; keep warm and well fed,” but does nothing about his physical needs, what good is it? In the same way, faith by itself, if it is not accompanied by action, is dead.” (James 2:14-17)*** True faith should be shown and followed by good works, ***“For we are God's workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.” (Ephesians 2:10)***

**5- Purity:** Not only the walk is clear and in obedience to God, but the heart also should be pure. God's weights the motive of the heart. We are called to purify our hearts from whatever evil thoughts and sin. The heart is the beginning for each and every sin as we can read here: ***“For out of the heart come evil thoughts, murder, adultery, sexual immorality, theft, false testimony, slander.” (Matthew 15:19)*** Our hearts should be clean and have purity before God and should be empty from wrong motive. You can cheat people but not God.

**My dear and beloved:** Jesus said, ***“In the same way, let your light shine before men, that they may see your good deeds and praise your Father in heaven.” (Matthew 5:16)*** God call us to be a good example, God call us to be a light and salt for others so we need to take the full responsibility and be the people that God would expect as we agree to pray.

**My Prayer:** *Father God I come before you in the name of Jesus who died on the cross for my sins to give me eternal life. Lord guides me, help me and cleanse me from all my sins. Lord I repent; I understand your will that you had called me to be an example to others that they would see you through me. Lord gives me more of your character and personality in my life and more of your fruit of the Holy Spirit. Enable me Lord to be that person that you want me to be; this is my prayer in Jesus name, Amen.*