

## ***Set An Example Part 2***

***“Follow my example, as I follow the example of Christ.” (1Corinthians 11:1)***

Example is a model or a pattern that people would use to follow. People are liable to copy and do what they see. Therefore whether it is a good example or bad example there will be people who will follow because they are not aware of what is the truth and what is right and what is wrong.

***Follow my example, as I follow the example of Christ.*** After you received Christ as Saviour and Lord you are called to set a good example for others to follow. That you will achieved by following the steps of Christ in denying yourselves, carrying the cross after Him, and willing to lay aside your own plan and will and suffer for HIM. If you do that then certainly and confidently you can say ***Follow my example, as I follow the example of Christ.***

***“So whether you eat or drink or whatever you do, do it all for the glory of God.” (1Corinthians 10:31)*** For example in eating: what you eat, expensive or affordable food? You budget your money and cook good food at home, or you eat in restaurants and waste your money and resources? Even in drinking: what you drink, water that is healthy or soft drinks and expensive juices, ... . In whatever you do people are looking and watching you and they might imitate you and copy what you are doing. Therefore do what is right so others will learn what is right.

***“Do not cause anyone to stumble, whether Jews, Greeks or the church of God.” (1Corinthians 10:32)*** When you live in disobedience to God and to His will then you are setting a bad example to others to follow and in this way you will cause them to stumble and sin against God.

Paul said to the Philippians the following: ***“Join with others in following my example, brothers, and take note of those who live according to the pattern we gave you.” (Philippians 3:17)*** Paul showed the people and gave them a pattern to follow. And instructed them to take note of those who live according to the pattern he gave them. As you receive this message, we as well instruct you to live according the pattern that we gave you. Those who follow the same pattern take note of them, and avoid those who do not follow the pattern we gave you.

Paul spoke and warned the Philippians that way because there were many Christians at the time of Paul who lived in sin and disobedience to Christ, ***“18 For, as I have often told you before and now say again even with tears, many live as enemies of the cross of Christ. 19 Their destiny is destruction, their god is their stomach, and their glory is in their shame. Their mind is on earthly things.” (Philippians 3:18-19)*** and now a day many Christians they live in sin and disobedience to Christ and you need to avoid them and totally cut all your relationship with them unless they repent and be willing to live according to the pattern we gave you.

***“20 But our citizenship is in heaven. And we eagerly await a Savior from there, the Lord Jesus Christ, 21 who, by the power that enables him to bring everything under his control, will transform our lowly bodies so that they will be like his glorious body.” (Philippians 3:20-21)*** Jesus is coming back soon and you need to be ready. If you will go and be with people who are called Christians but they are disobedient who are living in sin and spend with them

what you have on pleasure, food and dress, then they are a snare to you and they will destroy you. Move from such people and be ready so that when Jesus will come you will be meeting the Lord with us, ***“16 as you hold out the word of life--in order that I may boast on the day of Christ that I did not run or labor for nothing.” (Philippians 2:16)***

***“9 Whatever you have learned or received or heard from me, or seen in me--put it into practice. And the God of peace will be with you.” (Philippians 4:9)*** Whatever you had learned through bible study, or received from me through letter and messages, or heard through sermons, or seen from my life and example ***then put it into practice.*** As you endeavour to do the same and practice how we live and follow the pattern that we gave you, then peace and the God of peace will be with you.

Paul said to Timothy: ***“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.” (1Timothy 4:12)*** Paul instructed Timothy to set a good example to the believers and not to let anyone to look down on Him. The point here, if you are not a good example, others who know Christ will look down on you and not respect you.

Timothy was just a young man and he was pasturing the church at Ephesus, and the questions here how he reached to that level of ministry and the stage of understanding and the knowledge of God's word?

Paul told Timothy the following: ***“14 But as for you, continue in what you have learned and have become convinced of, because you know those from whom you learned it, 15 and how from infancy you have known the holy Scriptures, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus.” (2Timothy 3:14-15)*** Timothy knew the Scripture from the age of infancy and that enabled him to be God's servant from his young age.

But who taught Timothy the Scripture at that stage? Paul said to Timothy ***“5 I have been reminded of your sincere faith, which first lived in your grandmother Lois and in your mother Eunice and, I am persuaded, now lives in you also.” (2Timothy 1:5)*** Timothy was taught by his mother and grandmother that is why he knew the Scripture from young age. He was reading the Scripture during family prayer and worship. Therefore when Paul met him he was ready to be trained and equipped for service and righteousness. The life of Timothy is a good example to you to learn how to raise your children in the ways of the Lord.

Paul also recommended Timothy when he spoke about him the following: ***“19 I hope in the Lord Jesus to send Timothy to you soon, that I also may be cheered when I receive news about you. 20 I have no one else like him, who takes a genuine interest in your welfare. 21 For everyone looks out for his own interests, not those of Jesus Christ. 22 But you know that Timothy has proved himself, because as a son with his father he has served with me in the work of the gospel.” (Philippians 2:19-22)*** Timothy was faithful, accountable and reliable to perform the task of the Lord. He was faithful to the Lord and to HIS word, and He was faithful to those who taught him the word of God and was faithful to Paul and the Church that trained him to do God's service. He is an example that worthy to be followed!

***My Prayer: Father God I come before you in the name of Jesus who died on the Cross for my sins and rose from the dead to give me eternal life. Lord I commit myself to live in obedience to your instructions, to fear you, abiding in your word, being a good example and a pattern for others to learn and follow. Lord help me and grant me patient and the long suffering to be in the level of your expectation, this is my prayer in Jesus name Amen.***