

# Perspectives

## Set An Example

Years ago, a famous shoe company aired a commercial that centered around a professional basketball player exclaiming, “I am no role model!” The message? He was a ball player, and parents should be their children’s role models, not athletes or celebrities. There is some truth to this in that parents do (or should) play a significant role as a positive example in the lives of their children. Yet, *What is our responsibility to set a good and positive example to anyone and everyone who might be watching?*

Paul, in his letter to a young Timothy, says, “Don’t let anyone look down on you because you are young, but set an example for the believers in speech, in conduct, in love, in faith and in purity” (1 Timothy 4:12, emphasis added). The King James Version says, “Be thou an example of the believers.” Paul was saying to Timothy, despite his young age, that he was to be a good representation (an example) of a believer to other believers (and to the world).

Paul does not leave Timothy confused about what kind of example he should be. He exhorts Timothy to be a Christlike example in speech, in conduct, in attitude, in the way he loves others, in his faithfulness, and in his moral integrity. This would not happen by accident, nor by Timothy’s sheer will power; rather, he was to be grounded in the Word, adhering to sound doctrine, and through the daily living out (the practicing) of his faith (w. 13-16).

Whether we know it or not, people are watching our lives. And, whether we like it or not—good, bad, or somewhere in between—we are an example to them. This doesn’t mean that we have to be perfect or constantly paranoid about who might be observing us. However, it does mean that we intentionally follow Christ’s example (Matthew 16:24; Colossians 3:17), as we allow the Holy Spirit to guide and direct the things we say and do (Acts 1:8; Romans 8:10-11).

Daily, as we set an example to others by doing good (Titus 2:8), may we “follow God’s example, therefore, as dearly loved children and walk in the way of love, just as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us as a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God” (Ephesians 5:1-2).

May God bless you as you study His Word this quarter!

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