



2012-02-19

## BE AN EXAMPLE

### **1 Peter 2:9**

***'But you are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, His own special people, that you may proclaim the praises of Him who called you out of darkness into His marvellous light'***

We are chosen, royal, holy, special and called His own for a purpose.

We are called to proclaim His praises - to declare His virtues, His qualities to the world - Not just with words but through our lives.

### **1 Timothy 4:12**

***'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.'***

Paul exhorts Timothy and commands him to 'be an example' - in others words to be a role model in 6 areas.

#### 1) In WORD:

Let us be examples in the words that we speak.

#### **Matthew 5:37**

***'But let your 'yes' be 'yes' and your 'No', 'No'. For whatever is more than these is from the evil one'***

Let us have integrity in our communication. Let us say what we mean and mean what we say. If we say 'yes' to something, let us keep our word. Let us not say 'yes' when we actually want to say 'no'. Let us learn to say 'No' graciously.

#### **Ephesians 4:29**

***'Let no corrupt word proceed out of your mouth, but what is good for necessary edification, that it may impart grace to the hearers'***

Let no angry, hateful, spiteful and malicious words come out of our mouth.  
We are warned again in **James 3:10**

#### 2) In CONDUCT:

We are the 'salt' and 'light' of the world. The Lord Jesus wants our light to so shine in this world that people may observe our works - the outcome of our behaviour, lifestyle and praise the Father in heaven.

The results of a recent study in the lifestyle and behaviour of professing Christians and others in the US showed that in the majority of cases, there was no difference.  
But, we ought to be examples to others in our conduct.

If we want to change our behaviour/conduct, we cannot do so without changing our thinking, our mindset.

#### **Romans 12:2**

***'And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of you mind....'***

If we want to see transformation in our behaviour, we need to renew (transform/change/reform) our thinking. Our mind needs to be renewed to the thoughts of God. A renewed mind = A transformed life.

#### 3) In LOVE:



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### **Deuteronomy 6:5**

**'You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your strength'**

We have been commanded to love God. We have to be examples in this.

The early disciples really loved God. In spite of the persecution, they preached the Gospel. Philip, as he was being persecuted and chased from one place to another, continued to preach the gospel as a result of which there was revival in Samaria.

We are exhorted to 'love our neighbours, as ourselves'. In fact, we are called to 'love our enemies'

God's love is an unconditional love - It is an 'inspite of' love - *agape* (eg. 'I love you inspite of what you did to me')

Human love is sometimes an immature love. It is a 'because of' love. (eg. 'I love you because you are good looking').

We are called to show this 'inspite of' love in all our relationships.

It is possible to do so because the *agape* of God has been poured out into our hearts by the Holy Spirit - **Romans 5:5**

#### 4) In SPIRIT:

We are to be examples in our **motives** and **attitudes**.

**Motives** - Sometimes we can do the right thing with a wrong motive. We can serve others but our motive could be to get recognition for ourselves and approval of man - **Matthew 6:1-4**

**Attitude** - Our attitude while doing the right thing can also be wrong. We can do the right thing but all the while grumbling and complaining.

Paul, from the prison, writes to those who were free in Philippi and asks them to do everything without complaining or disputing - **Philippians 2:14**

We are to do everything - in word or deed - as unto the Lord, with enthusiasm and with the right attitude - **Colossians 3:17, 23**

#### 5) In FAITH:

We are called to be role models in our faith as well.

**Hebrews 11:6**

**'But without faith it is impossible to please Him, for He who comes to God must believe that He is, and that he is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him'**

Do we believe that God is all that He said/says He is?

In several verses from **Isaiah 41** onwards God describes or introduces himself with 'I am' statements. It is good to study this and check whether we believe who God says He is.

#### 6) In PURITY:

We are chosen to live pure and holy lives before God and man.

3 questions to ask ourselves -

- *Are we pure and holy in our actions?* Physical relationships.
- *Are we pure and holy in our words?* Phone conversations, sms, emails and jokes in our conversations.
- *Are we pure and holy in our thoughts and imaginations?* Our thought life, fantasies, etc.



**USEFUL RESOURCES**



Watch our online Sunday Church service live stream every Sunday at 10:30am (Indian Time, GMT+5:30). Spirit filled, anointed worship, Word and ministry for healing, miracles, and deliverance.

**YOUTUBE:** <https://youtube.com/allpeopleschurchbangalore>

**WEBSITE:** <https://apcwo.org/live>

Our other websites and free resources:

**CHURCH:** <https://apcwo.org>

**FREE SERMONS:** <https://apcwo.org/resources/sermons>

**FREE BOOKS:** <https://apcwo.org/books/english>

**DAILY DEVOTIONALS:** <https://apcwo.org/resources/daily-devotional>

**JESUS CHRIST:** <https://examiningjesus.com>

**BIBLE COLLEGE:** <https://apcbiblecollege.org>

**E-LEARNING:** <https://apcbiblecollege.org/elearn>

**WEEKEND SCHOOLS:** <https://apcwo.org/ministries/weekend-schools>

**COUNSELING:** <https://chrysalislife.org>

**MUSIC:** <https://apcmusic.org>

**MINISTERS FELLOWSHIP:** <https://pamfi.org>

**CHURCH APP:** <https://apcwo.org/app>

**CHURCHES:** <https://apcwo.org/ministries/churches>

**WORLD MISSIONS:** <https://apcworldmissions.org>