

WHO IS YOUR EXAMPLE

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INTRODUCTION

- A. TEXT: *“For yourselves know how ye ought to imitate us; for we behaved not ourselves disorderly among you; neither did we eat bread for nought at any man’s hand, but in labor and travail, working night and day, that we might not burden any of you: not because we have not the right, but to make ourselves an ensample unto you, that ye should imitate us.”* (v. 7-9).
- B. BY DEFINITION:
1. Webster: “a pattern; a model or copy; an illustration.
 2. In New Testament word comes from; “in writing; an under writing; to write under, to trace letters for copying. Hence a writing copy, an example.”
- C. EASY TO MOVE THIS FIGURE OVER TO HUMAN BEHAVIOR.
1. From birth, much of what we learn, we learn from example.
 2. As parents, teachers, leaders, how many times do we say, “let me show you how” or “just do like I do.”
 3. As this helps to mold us physically and socially, we must recognize the effect that example has on us Spiritually.
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KIND OF EXAMPLES

- A. ONLY TWO KIND OF EXAMPLES – (Not What, But Kind).
- A. GOOD!
- B. BAD!
- B. BE CAREFUL WHAT YOU FOLLOW.
- A. It is sometimes very easy to be impressed.
- B. We must make sure where it leads us.
- C. CHILDREN OF ISRAEL.
- A. Good.
1. Obeyed God.
 2. Left Egypt.
 3. Established the system of worship that God directed. (Took a while).
- B. Bad.
1. *“Now these things were our examples, to the intent we should not lust after evil things, as they also lusted. **Neither** be ye idolaters, as were some of them; as it is written, ‘The people say down to eat and drink, and rose up to play.’ **Neither** let us commit fornication, as some of them committed, and fell in one day three and twenty thousand.*

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***Neither** let us make trial of the Lord, as some of them made trial, and perished by the serpents. **Neither** murmur ye, as some of them murmured, and perished by the destroyer. Now these things happened unto them by way of example; and they were written for our admonition, upon whom the ends of the ages are come.” (I Cor. 10:6-11).*

2. Twice in this passage Paul tells us that this is an example for us....

c. **An example of WHAT NOT TO DO!!**

PAUL AS AN EXAMPLE

A. HOW HE BECAME AN EXAMPLE.

1. Did not set out with desire to be an example.
2. But recognized that his position (apostle, teacher) made him an example.
3. Recognizing this he made himself an example of following Christ.

B. “*BE YE IMITATORS OF ME, EVEN AS I ALSO AM OF CHRIST.*” (I Cor. 11:1).

1. “*Brethren, be ye imitators together of me, and mark them that so walk even as ye have us for an ensample.*” (Phil. 3:17).
 2. “*The things which ye both learned and received and heard and saw in me, these things do: and the God of peace shall be with you.*” (Phil. 4:9).
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CHRIST OUR EXAMPLE

A. OBEDIENCE:

1. “*Have this mind in you, which was also in Christ Jesus: who existing in the form of God, counted not the being on an equality with God a thing to be grasped, but emptied himself, taking the form of a servant, being made in the likeness of men; and being found in fashion as a man, he humbled himself, becoming obedient even unto death, yea, the death of the cross.*” (Phil. 2:5-8).
2. As we follow the example of Jesus in obedience, we obey God even unto death.

B. ENDURANCE. Steadfastness.

1. Unto the end.
2. In the garden. “Not my will, but thine be done.”

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C. FORGIVENESS.

1. *"Forbearing one another and forgiving each other, if any man have a complaint against any; even as the Lord forgave you, so also do ye:"* (Col. 3:13).
2. No one has ever treated us worse than they treated Him yet He offered them forgiveness. *"Father forgive them...they know not what they do."* (Luke 23:34).

D. SUFFER.

1. *"For hereunto were ye called: because Christ also suffered for you, leaving you an example, that ye should follow his steps:"* (I Pet. 2:21).
2. Suffering lead to being exalted to the right hand of God on His Throne.

E. LOVE.

1. *"A new commandment I give unto you, that ye love one another; even as I have loved you, that ye also love one another."* (John 13:34).
 2. How much did Jesus love....
 3. That is our example of love to our fellow man.
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CONCLUSION

B. WHAT KIND OF EXAMPLE ARE YOU???

1. Good.
2. Bad.
3. Where are you leading?
4. You are an example to someone!

C. WHO IS BEING INFLUENCED BY YOUR EXAMPLE?

1. Your family.
2. Your Friends.
3. Your neighbors.
4. Everyone you meet.

D. CAN WE SAY AS PAUL SAID.....

"BE YE IMITATORS OF ME, EVEN AS I ALSO AM OF CHRIST"
