

“BE AN EXAMPLE”

INTRODUCTION

A. **1st Timothy 4:12**

1. Why was Timothy commanded to “*be an example*”?
 - a. The command to “*be an example*” is preceded by the word “*but*”, a word which indicates contrast.
 - b. In this case, contrast is made between setting a good example and being despised for youthfulness.
 - c. The command “*let no one despise your youth*” means that Timothy was to behave himself in such a way as to give no one a reason look down on his young age.
 - d. He could accomplish this by setting a good example.
2. Who was Timothy commanded to “*be an example*” to?
 - a. **Matthew 5:16**
The Christian’s responsibility to set an example to those in the world is clear.
 - b. **Philippians 3:17**
However, Timothy was taught to “*be an example to the believers*”. Those who are duty-bound to set an example for the rest of the world need their own role models to look to.
3. How was Timothy to “*be an example to the believers*”? Let’s see.

I. “IN WORD”

A. **James 3:2-12**

Considering the universal difficulty of restraining our speech, it is important to seek out good examples of those who have mastered their own tongues.

B. **Luke 12:11-12; Colossians 4:6**

What Jesus promised His apostles, that the Holy Spirit would provide them the answer they needed in the instant they needed it, has not been promised to all. On the contrary, we are ordered to “*know how you ought to answer*”. We must be prepared to answer graciously.

C. **Ephesians 4:29; 5:4**

Our words must be clean, free from foul language and dirty jokes.

D. **Matthew 12:36-37**

Our every idle word will be judged.

II. **“IN CONDUCT”**

A. **Ephesians 4:17-24**

At the point of conversion, our conduct must change.

B. **1st Peter 1:13-15**

We must pattern our conduct after Christ's. It must be holy.

C. **2nd Peter 3:10-12**

The way we behave must reflect our knowledge that Judgment will come.

III. **“IN LOVE”**

A. **1st Corinthians 16:14**

Love must characterize our every act.

B. **Colossians 3:14**

Love is “*the bond of perfection*” – that is, the glue that holds it all together.

C. **Romans 13:8-10**

Love is the motivation for fulfilling every other command.

D. **John 13:35**

Our love for one another is evidence of our discipleship.

E. **1st Corinthians 13:4-7**

The characteristics of love are manifest.

IV. "IN SPIRIT"

A. **1st Corinthians 2:10-11**

Man's spirit is that aspect of his being which searches him; it is the inward man.

B. **Matthew 26:41**

Spirit is the internal part of man; it often conflicts with the desires of the body.

C. **1st Corinthians 6:20**

The spirit should be brought into subjection under God, for God owns it.

D. **Romans 12:11; Acts 18:25**

We are commanded to have fervency of spirit, which speaks of zeal. One good example is Apollos.

V. "IN FAITH"

A. **Hebrews 11:1; 2nd Corinthians 5:7**

Faith is trust in invisible things.

B. **Hebrews 11:2-12:2**

This whole passage sets forth terrific examples of faith.

VI. "IN PURITY"

A. **1st John 3:2-3**

Our motivation for purity is the heavenly reward.

B. **Philippians 4:8**

In order to be pure, we must focus our thoughts on those things which are pure.

CONCLUSION

A. Whose example do you look to?

B. What kind of example are you setting?