

Be An Example

Introduction

- God our Father has a goal for all his children--to become like their Father
- Eph. 5:1
- We can reach this goal as we look to Jesus and become like him
- Jn. 1:18

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I. Becoming Like Jesus

- 1 Pet. 2:21
- Christ is our example, our pattern and we are to grow into his likeness
- As we follow the example of Christ, we in turn become examples to others
- 1 Tim. 4:12

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- 1. In Word
- We speak what is in the heart
- Words are an index to our character

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- One who speaks kindly to others has a kind heart---one who speaks evil words has evil stored up in his heart
- Mt. 15:18
- Eph. 4:29, 31

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- **2. In Conduct (conversation)**
- We are to be an example in the way we live before others
- “We employ our greatest influence by our lives and actions.” Bob Winton
- 1 Pet. 2:11-12

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- **3. In Love**
- We are to be good examples in the love we have for God and for other people
- “Love is the badge that Christians wear.”
- Jn. 13:34-35

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- Love for God always manifests itself in obedience
- 1 Jn. 5:3

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- **4. In Spirit (attitude)**
- **Spirit** = the attitude or disposition of our heart
- **Devotion**-being fully devoted to God
- “To be an example in spirit is to give ourselves wholly to God”

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- Phil. 2:5

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- **5. In Faith**
- Faith includes both belief and trust
- We must never doubt God or his word--anxiety and extreme worry shows a lack of trust in God

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- Let us do the best we can and leave the rest to God
- Prov. 3:3-5

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- **6. In Purity**
- Christians have been purified by the blood of Christ
- 1 Pet. 1:18-19
- Rev. 1:5
- Mt. 5:8

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- We must put for forth every effort to maintain purity in heart, word and life
- 2 Cor. 7:1

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Conclusion

- “If every member of this church were just like me, what kind of church would this church be?...You can preach a better sermon with your life than with your lips.” Melvin Wise

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