

Making An Example Out Of You

Introduction. Thomas Morell said, "The first great gift we can bestow on others is a good example." "Example" means "a stamp, type, or imprint that is made by a blow" (John 20:25; Hebrews 8:5). You can be an imprint in many ways that will change people immeasurably (2 Thessalonians 3:7-9).

I. ***Be An Example In Study***

- A. Read and study appropriately (1 Timothy 4:13; 2 Timothy 2:15; cp. Isaiah 56:10-12).
- B. Avoid foolish and unlearned questions (2 Timothy 2:23; Titus 3:9).
- C. Do not wrest the scriptures (2 Peter 3:16).
- D. You do not grow by me refusing to preach on controversial issues (Acts 20:20, 27).

II. ***Be An Example In Faith***

- A. Believers need an example of faith (1 Timothy 4:12).
- B. Show people that faith fills us with joy and peace (Romans 15:13).
- C. Show people that those with faith prosper (2 Chronicles 20:20; 1 John 5:4).
- D. Show people how to draw near to God with faith (Hebrews 10:22).

III. ***Be An Example In Love***

- A. We love the Lord (Matthew 22:37; 1 John 4:19).
- B. We love the truth (2 Thessalonians 2:10).
- C. We love our spouse (Ephesians 5:25; Titus 2:4).
- D. We love our brethren (Hebrews 13:1).
- E. We love our neighbor (Matthew 22:39).
- F. We love our enemies (Matthew 5:44).

IV. ***Be An Example In Purity***

- A. Freedom of contamination starts with thought control (Proverbs 15:26; 23:7; Isaiah 65:2).
- B. Purity of thought produces purity of life (2 Timothy 2:22; 1 Peter 2:11).
- C. Purity of life demands unpopular decisions (Genesis 39:9, 12; Esther 1:10-11).

V. ***Be An Example In Exhortation***

- A. Peter and Ananias exhorted sinners to obey the gospel (Acts 2:40; 22:16).

- B. Christians should exhort one another to faithfulness (Colossians 1:21-23; Hebrews 3:14).
- C. Barnabas was known as the son of encouragement (Acts 4:36-37; cp. Romans 12:6-8).

VI. ***Be An Example In Teaching***

- A. Apollos and Noah were all great examples (Acts 18:27-28; 2 Peter 2:5).
- B. Every Christian should be a teacher, not just an inviter (John 1:45-46; Acts 8:4).

Conclusion. What can your good influence do? A good example can save (1 Peter 2:12), inspire (2 Corinthians 9:2), spread (1 Thessalonians 1:8), and live on (Hebrews 11:4). You wield immense power. In fact, it has been said that one example is worth a thousand arguments.