

An Example of The Believers

Linville Dunaway, Corinth Christian Church

"Let no man despise thy youth; but be thou an example of the believers, in word, in conversation, in charity, in spirit, in faith, in purity." (1 Timothy 4:12).

Whether we realize it or not, like it or not, if we are a Christian, then we are an example to the world. A lot of people don't like to think of having the responsibility of being an example about anything. Why? Well, if we are known as a follower of Jesus Christ, then we are saying that we are what believers are supposed to be. I am still surprised to find out that so many folks know me, and about me, when I don't really know them. We are known by the life we live and the things that we support, the things that we do, and the things that we don't do, or support.

So, we are examples, like it or not. The next question is - what kind of example?

We can be a good, or bad example of what a Christian is to the

world. Some are bad and their lives show that they don't apply the teachings of Jesus to their lives. If this is the way that they live by choice and don't try to walk with God, they are known as hypocrites. Yet, even those of us who try our best to walk with Jesus will make mistakes along the way. We don't mean to, but we do because the flesh lets us down. When such a thing happens, then the serious Christian will repent and ask God to forgive. Man often will not forgive, but our merciful God will.

Paul was writing to Timothy and encouraging him to be careful of his conduct. We need to realize that we might either lead someone to the Lord, or, God forbid, cause them to turn away from the Lord. It is a heavy responsibility to think that our weakness may harm not only ourselves, but others as well. In talking to several non-Christians through the years I found that some have the mistaken idea that if you are a Christian you will never err, or sin. Wouldn't it be wonderful if that were true? The trouble is that a Christian is still in the body of flesh. Paul wrote of this in Romans 7 and told about the flesh warring against the spirit. That is exactly what it is, a spiritual war, and we are in it.

"And ye became followers of us, and of the Lord, having received the word in much affliction, with joy of the Holy Ghost: So that ye were ensamples to all that believe in Macedonia and Achaia. For from you sounded out the word of the Lord not only in Macedonia and Achaia, but also in every place your faith to God-ward is spread abroad; so that we need not to speak any thing." (1 Thessalonians 1:6-8).

The Christians in Thessalonica faced much affliction because of their faith. The way they faced it made them a good example of the believers. That is not to say that they, or we, are perfect. We can have a perfect attitude even while we may come short in our efforts. I think back over the years to a man who went through a period where his attitude and example suffered. His temper got the best of him a time or two. A short time later he came before the church and apologized for his conduct and asked the Lord and the church to forgive him. Few times have I ever been more proud of an individual that I was of him at that time. Though he was small in stature, I told my wife, "That's a big man standing there!" I thought that he became a good example of what a Christian should be.

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503 Facts About The BIBLE BY JOHN LEHTI

This is a dramatized version of facts taken from the Book of Exodus intending to show some of the customs of these ancient and traditional times.

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WHEN JACOB INFORMED RACHEL THAT HE WAS A KINSMAN SHE RAN OFF, MUCH TO JACOB'S SURPRISE, NOW...

BUT WHY DOES RACHEL RUN AWAY - WHAT HAVE I DONE?!

I MUST TELL MY FATHER OF THIS AT ONCE!

FATHER! FATHER! HEarken UNTO ME!

WHAT IS IT, MY DAUGHTER - AND WHERE ARE THE SHEEP?

THIS DAY, WHEN I WENT TO THE WELL WITH THE SHEEP...

... I MET A YOUNG MAN NAMED JACOB WHO WATERED THE SHEEP FOR ME, AND EMBRACED ME AND SAID HE WAS THY SISTER'S SON!

EMBRACED THEE?! AND SAID HE WAS REBEKAH'S SON?!

COME! HASTEN! EVERYONE! WE MUST SEE THIS YOUNG MAN WHO MET RACHEL AT THE WELL!

JOHN LEHTI

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