

THE POWER OF EXAMPLE
Text: 1 Peter 2:21-25

INTRO: The song says, "He the great example is, and pattern for me." Let us consider for a few minutes the power of example.

I. THE POWER OF EXAMPLE.

A. The idea the apostle deals with is exemplified by a writing work text, as used in the primary grades of school.

1. The work text contains a perfect example.
2. Each line the student writes should be in an effort to follow the perfect example.
3. If the student follows the example he himself has just written, he will most likely deviate farther & farther from the perfect ex.

B. The power of example is far-reaching in its effects and consequences.

1. A bad example can set a precedent for generations to come.

[Abijam] walked in all the sins of his father, which he had done before him. (1 Kings 15:3)

NOTE: Of course, a person does not have to follow the bad example that is set before him, but he is very likely to do so, & others will find it more difficult to do right with a bad example ever before them.

2. Good examples make it easier for others to understand what is

right, & to see that what is right is practicable, thus to have the resolve to do what is right.

3. There are several good methods of teaching others what is right-- & we should use them all to the best of our ability--but one of the best methods is to set a right example.

II. THE PERFECT EXAMPLE--JESUS CHRIST.

- A. Paul admonishes the Corinthians: Follow me as I follow Christ (1 Cor. 11:1).
- B. God wants us to set good examples with the realization that our children, our friends, our co-workers are looking to us as examples of the Christianity we claim to embrace.
- C. But, mostly, we must point to Jesus-- the perfect example.

III. JESUS IS MORE THAN AN EXAMPLE.

- A. He is the sacrifice for our sins, our Savior.
- B. He is our ever-living intercessor.

CONCLUSION:

PASS IT ON

Have you had a kindness shown?
Pass it on.
Twas not given for thee alone.
Pass it on.
Let it travel down the years,
Let it dry another's tears,
Till in heav'n the deed appears--
Pass it on.

Have you found the heav'nly light?

Pass it on.
Souls are groping in the night,
Daylight gone.
Hold thy lighted lamp on high,
Be a star in someone's sky.
He may live who else would die.
Pass it on.

Be not selfish in thy greed,
Pass it on.
Look upon thy brother's need,
Pass it on.
Live for self and life is vain;
Live for Christ; you'll live again.
Live with Him, with Him you reign--
Pass it on.

Shiloh, Mexia, TX, April 2, 1995
Susquehanna, Marietta, PA, April 6, 2003