**Being a Paul**

*1 Corinthians 11:1*

**Introduction**

1. Paul was a great person of faith to follow.
2. We should follow the example he set in his life.
3. The reason Paul is a good example to follow is that he himself followed Christ!
4. In the scripture we seek Paul’s life displayed in a way we can all relate to, learn from, and should follow.

Paul’s life and ours…

1. Past

* “I am chief” (among sinners) (Recognition if currently sinner; humility if redeemed)
  + 1 Timothy 1:12-15; Romans 5:7-9
    - Paul was grateful for the grace and mercy that God bestowed upon him.
      * He did not make little of what he had done, rather he owned up to it and was obedient to the Lord.
    - We must recognize where we were, or are, without Christ.

1. Present

* I am “a new creation” in Christ Jesus (Complete change in purpose.)
  + 2 Corinthians 5:16-17; Romans 6:3-4; 12:1-2
    - While sinners we think and live according to the flesh. When we obey the gospel we submit ourselves to God’s word and think according to the spirit.
    - Before baptism we were slaves to sin. After we become dead to sin, and slaves to righteousness. We are to sin no more, because we are a new creation!
    - As a new creation, our purpose is to live for God.

1. Future

* I “shall be like Him” (Setting the goal and working toward it.)
  + 1 John 3:2-3; 1 Corinthians 15:50-54
    - We have something wonderful to look forward to as Christians. Being joined with Christ in His magnificent presence in heaven is a hope we contain within ourselves.
      * Romans 8:18 – Glory shall be revealed in us.
    - This hope we have is of a glorious spiritual body. It is incorruptible and undefiled. It will last forever. We cannot inherit eternal life without it, and it will be granted to us.
      * However, until that time we must continue in the faith (cf. 1 Corinthians 15:58). 🡪

1. Meanwhile

* “I press toward the goal” (Recognizing we have not yet attained.)
  + Philippians 3:13-15; Hebrews 4:8-10; Galatians 6:7-10
    - Paul did not grow complacent in his service to God. He pressed on.
    - We cannot rest until we get to heaven. While we are on this earth we must continue in good works.
    - As we continue in good works we must not grow weary. The rest is awaiting us, but we must be consistent in our service.

**Conclusion**

1. Paul was not a perfect man, but when he realized his faults he repented and received forgiveness.
2. From that point in time he continued to live as he should.
3. Where are you on this timeline? Have you obeyed the gospel? Are you pressing toward the goal?