**Be an Example** *1 Timothy 4:12*

**Introduction**

1. Paul exhorted the young Timothy to show himself as an example.
   1. He was young – let no one despise (look down on) your youth – how? 🡪
   2. But be an example – **He was to be concerned with what he could control – himself.**
2. Example – *typos* – a model (for imitation) (Strong). (**cf. Hebrews 8:5** – pattern, *typos*, for tabernacle)
   1. Possible translation – ***“be a pattern (model) of faithfulness (pistos; faithful, faithfulness)”*** – or to the believers.
   2. **How?** – **vv. 13-16** – have to do with diligence in study of God’s word, and practice of it.
   3. ***“Imitate me, just as I also imitate Christ” (1 Corinthians 11:1)*** – done by faith – **cf. Galatians 2:20; Romans 10:17.**
   4. **Exhortation for ALL Christians** – all Christians are to be examples to one another, and to the world – MODELS OF FAITHFULNESS.
3. Paul offers six areas where Timothy, and we, are to be a model for imitation – an example.
4. Word
5. **Word** – *logos*; something said. (Strong)
   1. What we say matters – **Matthew 12:33-37** (Jesus speaking to Pharisees)
      1. **(vv. 36-37)** – We stand and fall in judgment based (in part) upon our words.
      2. **(vv. 33-35)** – this is because the things we say are manifestations of who we are.
      3. ***“idle word”*** – *argos* – ***a*** (negative – not) and ***ergon*** (work) – free from labor, at leisure, therefore unprofitable – “the ‘idle word’ means the word that is thoughtless or profitless.” (Vine)
         1. It is of utmost importance that we THINK before we speak.
         2. ***“Death and life are in the power of the tongue, and those who love it will eat its fruit” (Proverbs 18:21)***. 🡪
   2. **The tongue is full of potential energy that must be maintained, and used appropriately** – **cf. James 3:2-5** – ***“perfect”*** or complete/mature men have control of their speech.
      1. James 3 warns of the damage the unchecked tongue can cause.
      2. **However, while great potential for harm exists, so there exists potential for good.** **(v. 9** – capable of good and evil. Should not be forked, but single – for good)
      3. **Therefore, our tongue must be governed 🡪**
   3. ***“Whatever you do in word…do all in the name of the Lord Jesus” (Colossians 3:17).***
6. Be an example in WORD:
   1. **Avoid:**
      1. **Blasphemy** (**cf. Colossians 3:8**) – (a) slander, detraction, speech injurious to another's good name; (b) impious and reproachful speech injurious to the divine majesty. (Thayer)
      2. **Filthy language** (**cf. Colossians 3:8**) – foul speaking, low and obscene speech. (Thayer)
      3. **Lying** (**cf. Colossians 3:9**) – to speak falsehood.
      4. **Coarse jesting** (**cf. Ephesians 5:4**) – witty speech which includes sinful insinuations. (Dirty jokes, etc.)
   2. **Pursue:**
      1. **Colossians 4:6; Ephesians 4:29** – grace, and seasoned with salt.
         1. Speech that would edify, and bestow favor on the hearer.
         2. Our speech should be used for the good of others.
      2. **Exhortation** – **Hebrews 3:12-14** – to continue faithfully
      3. **Comfort** – **2 Corinthians 1:3-4** – during struggles/heartaches. (**cf. 1 Thessalonians 4:18** – concerning the resurrection, about those who have lost loved ones)
7. Conduct
8. **Conduct** – *anastrophē*; behavior. (Strong)
   1. **Romans 12:1-2** – must be a sacrifice to the Lord, and separate from the world as we are changed by the will of God.
   2. ***“Only let your conduct be worthy of the gospel of Christ” (Philippians 1:27).***
   3. ***“Walk worthy of the calling with which you were called” (Ephesians 4:1).***
   4. Our behavior – in ALL that we do – must be fitting for the Christian – is it approved by Christ? – ***“Whatever you do in…deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus” (Colossians 3:17).***
9. Be an example in CONDUCT:
   1. **Modesty** – **1 Timothy 2:9-10:**
      1. **Propriety** – ***“shamefacedness” (KJV)*** – “(through the idea of downcast eyes); bashfulness” (Strong).
      2. **What is it that brings the shame? – nakedness** – **cf. Genesis 3:7-10** – shame came with the knowledge of nakedness.
         1. **NOTE – purpose of clothing** – to conceal nakedness. **(vv. 7, 21)**
         2. **NOTE – made coverings, STILL NAKED**. *(Can be partially covered and still naked.)*
         3. **What is nakedness?** – Proper to ask to know what is dress “with propriety.”
      3. **Nakedness:**
         1. Definition must come from God – if not, the definition is purely arbitrary.
            1. Use of OT to define a term that is timeless – public nakedness is a sin even in the NT – “Shamefacedness” implies such.
         2. **Genesis 3:7, 21** – Adam and Eve sought to cover nakedness and failed, but God does not fail – covered with tunic:
            1. **Tunic** – *kĕthoneth* – From an unused root meaning to cover (compare H3802); a shirt: - coat, garment, robe.
            2. “The words, ‘God made coats,’ are not to be interpreted with such bare literality, as that God sewed the coats with His own fingers; they merely affirm ‘that man's first clothing was the work of God, **who gave the necessary directions and ability’** (Delitzsch). By this clothing, God imparted to the feeling of shame the visible sign of an awakened conscience, **and to the consequent necessity for a covering to the bodily nakedness”** (Keil & Delitzsch).
            3. “generally with sleeves, coming down to the knees, rarely to the ankles” (Gesenius' Hebrew-Chaldee Lexicon)
            4. ***Scholars agree at least from neck to knees.***
         3. **Exodus 28:42-43** – trousers to cover nakedness – waist to thigh (thigh is that range from waist to knee).
         4. **Isaiah 47:2-3** – thigh = nakedness.
      4. Is the conduct of our dress befitting a Christian? I.e. is it modest apparel?
   2. **Sobriety:**
      1. **1 Peter 1:13-16** – Call to holiness (discussed further under “Purity”) requires sobriety.
         1. Christians are to be a people of FOCUS – on the reward – ***“grace that is to be brought…”*** Requires 🡪
         2. **Sober** – of a sound mind; in one’s senses; self-controlled.
         3. **(v. 14)** – so we can be obedient, and not following lusts.
         4. **(vv. 15-16)** – so we can be holy like God is holy.
      2. **Free from intoxicants:**
         1. The Christian is to be sober-minded.
         2. **Then they are to be physically sober – free from intoxicants.**
         3. **1 Peter 1:13** – Physical sobriety – *nēphō* – to abstain from wine. (STRONG)
            1. “to be free from the influence of intoxicants” (VINE)
            2. “to be sober, drink no wine” (LIDDELL-SCOTT)
         4. ***“And do not be drunk with wine, in which is dissipation” (Ephesians 5:18).***
            1. **Drunk** – inceptive verb – do not begin to drink.
            2. Because “dissipation,” or unsavedness, is inherent in the wine.
            3. ***“Do not look on the wine” (Proverbs 23:31).***
         5. **1 Peter 4:3-4** – Such is a life of the Gentiles, a ***“flood of dissipation.”***
            1. **Drunkenness** – *oinophlygia* – an overflow of wine. (STRONG)
            2. **Revelries** – *kōmos* – "a revel, carousal," the concomitant and consequence of drunkenness. (VINE) (lesser than *oinophlygia*)
            3. **Drinking parties** – *potos* – a drinking. (VINE; STRONG; THAYER)
         6. **Christians are not to drink AT ALL.**
      3. Are we sober in our mind as we seek to live for God?
10. Love
11. For God
    1. **While the world has an unscriptural view of love for God, the Christian must be sure to SHOW WHAT LOVING GOD REALLY LOOKS LIKE.**
    2. **John 14:15, 21, 23** – our example of love for God must be that which does what pleases Him.
    3. **2 Timothy 2:15** – This requires diligence to know what He wants, and resolve to do it.
12. For Our Brethren
    1. ***“Beloved, if God so loved us, we also ought to love one another” (1 John 4:11).***
    2. ***“By this all will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another” (John 13:35).***
    3. This love DOES WHAT IS RIGHT, REGARDLESS.
    4. **Example – restoring a brother:**
       1. **James 5:19-20** – Understand what good it does.
       2. **Galatians 6:1-2** – Understand that it is your duty.
       3. **Or even before – BE THE VOICE THAT STANDS UP FOR GOD’S TRUTH, AND STEERS OTHERS, OUT OF LOVE, IN THE DIRECTION OF WHAT IS RIGHT.**
       4. **Love is not concerned with personal comfort, but for what is needed by its object.**
13. Spirit
14. Spirit – *pneuma*; a current of air, i.e. breath (blast) or a breeze. (Strong)
    1. Holy Spirit, man’s spirit, or man’s disposition (attitude).
    2. **Be an example in your disposition, or ATTITUDE.**
    3. **In general, as a Christian, in doing God’s will:**
       1. **Colossians 3:17** – Notice the end – **giving thanks** – we should be thankful that we get to serve God.
       2. **Romans 8:15-17** – The disposition of adoption.
          1. In service to God, we should have the attitude as a son wishing to please his father.
          2. ***“Abba, Father”*** – a term of endearment – intimate relationship.
          3. **WE WANT to do what God says.**
       3. **1 John 5:3** – we don’t complain about commandments, but are happy, and eager to do them out of love.
15. Be an example in SPIRIT:
    1. **Assembling:**
       1. **Psalm 122:1** – Does our attitude of worship resemble that of David?
       2. This is what heaven will be about – worshipping God – **cf. Revelation 14:3-5** – 144,000 singing the ***“new song.”*** (Do we really want to go to heaven?)
       3. **Hebrews 10:24-25** – Are we eager to assemble, and aid our brethren in their walk with God?
          1. Do we seek valid excuses to miss?
          2. Do we schedule around worship times, or over worship times?
          3. When we miss something for worship, is our attitude, “I HAVE to go to church,” or “I DO NOT WANT to miss services”?
    2. **Trial and Tribulation:**
       1. When something bad happens to us, or we are presented with adversity, do we grumble and complain?
       2. **Cf. 1 Corinthians 10:6, 9-11** – do we act as the Israelites did?
       3. **James 1:2-4** – Do we count it joy, considering what good can come from such a situation? Do we turn to God for help, and let such produce endurance in us?
       4. **Cf. Romans 5:3-5** – In our tribulation, do we look to the hope of heaven to get us through, and acknowledge how such adversity can aid us in getting there?
    3. Do we possess the attitude that God desires of us?
16. Faith
17. That God IS – in a skeptical world.
    1. **Hebrews 11:6** – We must believe that God is, and then seek Him.
    2. More and more are rejecting the thought of the existence of God.
       1. **This is because they want to live without restraint** – **cf. Romans 1:18-20, 28** – They did not like to acknowledge God, because they wanted to walk in various lusts.
    3. **We must reject the notion that faith is unreasonable:**
       1. **Psalm 14:1** – We must understand it is foolish not to believe in God.
       2. **Acts 26:24-25** – Paul new his faith was from truth, and reason.
       3. **Cf. Hebrews 11:1** – understand the nature of faith. (Not without logic, or substance.)
       4. **Cf. Luke 17:5** – have the desire of the apostles for an increase in faith. **(cf. Romans 10:17** – comes from time in God’s word.)
          1. Be an example in faith by diligent study and meditation.
          2. **Do not take the easy way by saying, “I believe because I just do.”**
          3. **Cf. 1 Peter 3:15** – rather, always be prepared to give a defense.
18. Trusting in God’s Will
    1. **Cf. Jeremiah 10:23; Proverbs 14:12** – trust that God knows what is best for you, and you do not.
    2. **Have the mindset of Jesus** – **cf. Matthew 26:39, 42** – Resolve to do God’s will, not your own.
    3. Even and ESPECIALLY in the most difficult circumstances – **cf. Hebrews 11:32-40.**
19. Purity
20. Purity – *hagneia*; cleanliness (the quality), i.e. (specially) chastity: — purity; sinlessness of life. (Strong)
    1. From *hagnos* which is from the same as *hagios* – **holy** – set apart.
    2. **Cf. 1 Peter 1:15-16** – be holy like God. (**cf. 1 John 1:5** – no darkness AT ALL – completely separate)
    3. **1 John 3:4-9** – entirely separate from sin.
       1. Christians are not to be okay with any sin.
       2. **There should be ZERO tolerance for sin, and complete abstinence.**
       3. **Cf. Romans 13:14** – not even providing for the flesh.
21. Be an example in PURITY:
    1. **Associations:**
       1. **1 Corinthians 15:33** – evil company will corrupt us.
       2. **2 Corinthians 6:14-7:1** – when we associate with others who are involved in sinful activities, we, although not participating in the sin itself**, show ourselves to be in agreement with them. (Also put ourselves in a position to be influenced.)**
          1. **Cf. 2 John 10-11** – same idea with fellowshipping false teachers.
          2. **Example: Dances (Prom), public swimming pools/water parks (known for immodest dress), parties, bars, etc.**
          3. **Cf. 1 Corinthians 5:10** – Understood that you cannot go out of the world. **HOWEVER, YOU CAN AVOID THE PLACES AND SITUATIONS WHERE SINFULNESS DWELLS**.
    2. **Entertainment:**
       1. Recreation is from God – **cf. Ecclesiastes 5:18-20.**
       2. **Problem – when we take what is good, and twist it to something destructive**.
       3. **Philippians 4:8-9** – We are to fill our minds with, and think about (meditate) those things which are scriptural and proper.
       4. When we fill our minds with sinful matters in the form of entertainment, although we ourselves are not participating directly, **we are being influenced and changed by such!** – **cf. Matthew 6:22-23** – we cannot let darkness into our hearts, or our hearts will be corrupted.
       5. **Be the one who refuses to partake in entertainment that is ungodly, and encourages pure forms of entertainment.**

**Conclusion**

1. We must be a model for imitation, an example, to the believers.
2. **We should be a model of faithfulness.**
3. Others should be able to imitate our conduct as we imitate Christ (**cf. 1 Corinthians 11:1**).
4. **Are we being good examples to each other and the world of faithfulness?**