

HANDOUT MOTHERS DAY MAY 14, 2023 “BEING AN EXAMPLE”

Paul Spoke Much About Being an Example By The Way We Live: 2 Tim 1:5; 2 Tim 3:15

TEXT: 1 Timothy 4:12 *“Don’t let anyone look down on you because you are young, But Set an Example for the Believers in Speech, in Conduct, in Love, in Faith and in Purity.”*

Paul told Timothy and US to Be an Example in Speech, Life, Love, Faith and Purity. Think About What This Verse Commands of Us! Imagine If We Could Master Each of These 5 Areas Of Our Lives It Would Change How We Appear to Others...And Our Example Might Lead Them to Choose Christ!

KEY: As Others Look at Us They are Being Influenced By Our Example.

5 Ways We are to be an Example: **Our Speech** Colossians 4:6; **Our Life** Romans 1:17 **Our Love:** John 13:35; **Our Faith** Matthew 5:16; **Our Purity** Philippians 4:8

I think We Would All Agree...We Would Rather See a Sermon than Hear One! 1 Corinthians 11:1 Matthew 5:16; Ephesians 5:1; Colossians 3:16; Titus 2:7; James 1:19 and Matthew 7:12

POINT: Being a Godly Example is Not an Option! And it is the Greatest Responsibility for every Mother and Father as well as Every Son and Daughter!

- God Wants Us to Have A Distinctive Christian Character! *A Distinctive Christian Character is the Result of Knowing and Embracing God’s Word and Choosing to Walk with Christ.*

Consider this...As Christians, if Our Lives Are Different, as they should be, Yet We Never let Others Know WHY We are different...We Have Failed to Be An Example!

Next, Paul says, Be a Good Example With Our Lives...So That Others Will Want the Christ They See in Us!

- Story shared by a Pre-Med student that Experienced Christian Love that Led Him to Christ.
- We are a *Christian Example by the Way WE Live, the things WE Do and the Way WE Treat Others.*

Paul says Be an Example with Our Faith! If We Worry and are filled with Anxiety over Every Unexpected Issue that Comes Into Our Lives...Others will Not See Christ in Us and They Will Feel that We Have Nothing to Offer Them!

Paul says, to Be an Example of Purity...Purity is Surely Needed in a Society that Has Thrown Godly Principles About Purity Out the Door...Today’s Culture Believes Purity is Old Fashioned, Victorian... Outdated! ***Today, Some Christians Believe that it is OK to Live Together Outside of Marriage... And Doing So...They Are NO Godly Example to the World!***

Paul said For Us To Be a Good Example of LOVE! What do You Think Makes a Good Example of LOVE? Do You Have An Image in Your Mind Of What That Looks Like?

Story about a 4th Grade Teacher Named Miss Thompson, and a Boy Named Teddy Stallard.

- Miss Thomson’s Heart was Changed as she Saw Teddy through God’s Eyes.
- In Teddy’s eyes she had earned the right to sit in his Mothers place because as an agent of God’s love she had done something for Teddy that he would never forget.
- **She had “LOVED” him in a way that No-One Except Maybe his Own Mother Ever Had.**

Here is What We Learn from these Stories of Godly Examples: In Each Story The Individual Took their Eyes Off themselves and Focused on the Needs of Another Realizing their Responsibility before God to Serve and Love each one.

CLOSE: Four Scholars were Arguing Over Bible Translations.

- One said he preferred the King James Version because of its beauty and eloquent old English.
- Another said he liked the New American Standard Version for its literalism and how it moves the reader from passage to passage with confident feelings of accuracy from the original text.
- The third scholar was sold on the New Living Translation for its use of contemporary phrases and idioms that capture the meaning of difficult ideas.
- After being quiet for a moment, the fourth scholar admitted: "I have Personally Preferred My Mother's Translation."
- When the other scholars Chuckled, he said, "Yes, She Translated the Scriptures.
- *My Mom Translated Each Page of the Bible into Life...And...It is the Most Convincing Translation I Have Ever Read."*

POEM: When You Thought I Wasn't Looking- by Mary Rita Schilke Sill

When you thought I wasn't looking, You hung my first painting on the refrigerator...And I immediately wanted to paint another.

When you thought I wasn't looking, I saw You make my Favorite birthday cake for me...And I Learned that little things can be the Special things in life.

When you thought I wasn't looking. I saw you Make a Meal and take it to a Friend who was sick and I learned what it Means to Serve One Another in Brotherly Love.

When you thought I wasn't looking, I heard You Pray Over Me and Kiss Me Goodnight...And I Felt Loved and Safe.

When You Thought I wasn't Looking I saw how You Handled Your Responsibilities even when You Didn't Feel Good...And I Learned What it Means to Glorify God in All Things.

When You Thought I wasn't Looking. I saw You Give of Your Time and Money to the Church and People in Need...And I Learned that God Loves a Cheerful Giver.

When you thought I wasn't looking, I saw tears come from your eyes...And I learned that sometimes things Hurt But that it's All Right to Cry.

When you thought I wasn't looking, I saw You Praying and Reading Gods Word...And I Learned to Depend On and Trust In Him Too.

When you thought I wasn't looking, You cared...And I wanted to be everything I could be.

When you thought I wasn't looking, I looked at You...And Wanted to Say Thanks For All the Things I Saw...When You Thought I Wasn't Looking.

POINT: When We Are A Godly Example...People Are Drawn to Jesus Christ!