

# Being A Good Example

**1 Thessalonians 1:2-3, 7** [New King James] *“We give thanks to God always for you all, making mention of you in our prayers, remembering without ceasing your work of faith, labour of love, and patience of hope in our Lord Jesus Christ in the sight of our God and Father,” ... “so that you became examples to all in Macedonia and Achaia who believe.”*

**Paul was inspired to write this encouraging letter of commendation to a group of people who were the right kind of example to their family and neighbours.**

**Often the little things we do make a big difference in the way others see and respond to us as Christians.**

Making guests feel welcome in our homes.

Sending an encouraging card to someone.

Giving the attendant at a store, restaurant or petrol station a courteous smile.

All such small actions add up to a life of helping and caring for other human beings.

We all need to step back once in a while and take a realistic look at ourselves as to how good example we are as Christians, ambassadors of Jesus Christ, [**2 Corinthians 5:20**].

## **Why our example is important –**

As Christians we must practice what we preach, our words and our actions must match up, they must **not** conflict.

As Christians we must practice what we have been taught, from God’s Word, the Christian Bible, and the life of our Saviour, Jesus Christ, as recorded in the Christian Bible.

**Unless this is the way we conduct our lives we will be false witnesses of God’s way of life.**

**1 Peter 2:21** [New King James] *“For to this you were called, because Christ also suffered for us, leaving us an example, that you should follow His steps:”*

**Jesus Christ should be our example in everything we do.**

Jesus Christ at His First Coming to this earth as a physical human being was the example of the perfect spiritual man.

Jesus Christ was strong, virile, masterful, yet kind and gentle.

Jesus Christ possessed leadership qualities, mental strength, purpose, supreme strong will, perfectly blended with wisdom, sound judgement, knowledge, understanding, justice, patience, compassion and mercy.

Jesus Christ was filled with peace of mind, love and faith.

Jesus Christ’s will, as strong as it was, yielded totally in obedience to God the Father.

**All of this is the pattern that we must imitate.**

Jesus Christ possessed leadership.

## **What kind of example does a leader set?**

**The stamp of a true leader is summed up in one word, credibility.**

As future leaders in the Kingdom of God, we must practice credibility in our daily lives now.

**There are certain steps to our identifying credibility –**

**Always telling the truth –**

**Failing to do so indicates an intention to deceive, whether planned or not.**

Any inconsistency between what you believe and what you hope another person will believe, because of what you do or say, destroys credibility.

**Admit your mistakes –**

**We are all still human and make mistakes. Why pretend otherwise?**

When we say, *“I was wrong”* it tends to strengthen our credibility.

When we say, *“I’m right.”*

**When we do not know or understand something, admit it –**

Remember that God is going to hold us accountable for all our words and actions, [Matthew 12:36; James 3:1; Ecclesiastes 12:13-14].

Any small advantage that might be gained momentarily by bluffing is far outweighed by the possibility of losing credibility.

**Always keep your promises –**

Even if it hurts to do so, the reaction to an outright lie or a forgotten promise, makes the other person feel cheated or forgotten, **credibility is believability on the highest level.**

One of the highest compliments any of God’s people can hear is, *“If they say so, you can bank on it.”*

**Example is contagious –**

**Our conduct as Christians will be imitated by those with which we work or play, those most important, our children.**

If the parent or leader in a group sets a poor example, then everyone in the family or group pays the price for such a poor example.

**Quotation from Abraham Lincoln –**

*“There is just one way to bring up a child in the way they should go, that is to travel that way yourself.”*

**Example can be used to build the family team, both physically and spiritually.**

**A good example will always inspire growth in others.**