

## **BEING A GOOD EXAMPLE TO OTHERS**

**Ephesians 4:25-5:2**

**(Not entirely original with me)**

**Introduction:** If there is anybody who should be setting the right example for others, it should be Christians. The Bible describes many types of behavior, some good, some bad and Paul gives some very helpful guidelines for Christians to use in being a good example before others.

### **I. ALWAYS SPEAK THE TRUTH, BUT DO SO IN AN ATTITUDE OF LOVE**

1. Remove half-truths from one's speech and learn how to converse with others truthfully and in a loving manner.
2. Speak your opinion truthfully but there are ways to do so without offending others by asking one's self what is the most loving, gentle way to express the truth.

### **II. KEEPING CONTROL OF ONE'S ANGER**

1. Anger is a natural emotion, response and often occurs without one's even thinking about whether to be angry or not.
2. Biblical anger is a controlled anger accompanied with love and patience, reacting in such a way that one's relationship with the other is not damaged.
3. Jesus teaches to "**not let the sun go down on your anger...**"
4. Learning how to let anger "cool off" and pass without doing or saying hurtful things is a great step in setting a good example.

### **III. WORKING HARD AND HONESTLY**

1. There are many opportunities to be dishonest at about any job but to remain honest and dependable at one's job is a good example.
2. Sharing material things with others, food, clothing, helping to pay bills, can help build others up in countless ways.
3. To be able to help others, one must be in a financial position to do so and therefore being honest and working hard at one's job is a means of being able to help others.

### **IV. SAYING POSITIVE THINGS**

1. Words can hurt or they can help and they will do one or the other at all times.
  - Positive words can help build people up and encourage them, make them happy.
  - Negative words can tear people down, hurt, destroy any positiveness they might have had.

2. Thinking before speaking is something the Christian needs to learn how to do.
  - Being concerned with WHAT is said more than WHY it is said is more important.
  - Sometimes people misunderstand what is said and therefore one needs to be very mindful of exactly what he/she is about to say.
3. A most encouraging thing one can do for others is to choose words that will build a person up, not tear him/her down.

## **V. BE FORGIVING OF OTHERS AT ALL TIMES**

1. It is not easy to forgive someone for doing or saying hurtful things but Jesus teaches that the Christian must do so.
2. Forgiveness as Jesus teaches is to treat the person who has hurt as if he/she has not done anything to hurt.
3. Think about the times you needed to go to someone and ask to be forgiven.
4. Christians need to be tenderhearted, forgiving one another just as God, through Jesus Christ, has forgiven them.

## **VI. LOVING OTHERS AT ALL TIMES**

1. Of all people who should express the attitude and lifestyle of love, it should be Christians.
2. Loving others is putting them before one's self, wanting and working for the best of others, being patient, kind, and hoping and believing in them.
3. Loving others at all times, under all circumstances is a very good example for others.

## **CONCLUSION:**

1. Knowing what to do is one thing, and doing it is another. Knowing how to encourage others and to be a good Christian example, the Christian knows, but the old human/sinful nature is hard to overcome and therefore the Christian has to work at being a good example before others.
2. Learning how to put into practice what the Bible teaches in being the right example before others is good for the Christian and most beneficial to others.
3. Practice makes perfect!