Set An Example
1 Timothy 4:9-16

Objective: Excite and encourage each to lead in godliness.

Introduction:
1. What is happening to Integrity of the church, and what can I do? Set an example.

We each need to determine to set a good example of Christianity. (How?)

Reason for instruction in 1 Timothy 4:9-16 is that there are teachers present who have lost their integrity! Not intentionally wicked, but leading the church in wrong directions! (Sound familiar?) We must bear an example for the believers just as Timothy was told to. What Paul tells Timothy in this section ought to encourage and motivate each of us to set a leading example for everyone, including believers.

Take this matter to heart. Take it personally and accept your personal responsibility.

I. It is your personal responsibility to lead by Christian Example!

A. You can personally take a leadership role!
1. No matter what your age is!
   a. Jesus age 12, David vs. Goliath, How old is Timothy (17 +13=30?)
   b. Age doesn’t matter - truth does! Right does!
   c. When one is not doing it right; you “be diligent in these matters…” (verse 15-16)
   d. When sitting at dinner and adults begin to talk about someone …
   e. When friends are un-spiritual, not worshipping, dirty jokes, picking on someone …
   f. When you are with date, whether you are the boy or the girl, set example of Christ.
2. Leadership is acquired by example, it is not forced or assigned.
   a. Hear 1 Peter 5:1-3; Even elders are to be examples to the flock!
   b. You know what authority I have? To point to the Word and live it! You have same.
   c. Regardless of what leaders do, you have a better example to follow in Christ.
   d. You can outshine all; lift level of integrity; just really do what it says!

B. Understand the believers need an example as much as anybody.
1. Maybe more; they are the image of Christ; His ambassadors!
2. Can you think of a single “believer” who always has everything right?
3. They need to see it lived out. Obedience, love, forgiveness, hospitality, repentance!
4. They need an example at least occasionally, that reveals their own errors or hypocrisy.
5. Read Verse 15-16 again.

The Apostle relates five specific areas in which the servant of God (you) ought to set example;

II. Set an example for them in your “speech”.

A. Why do you suppose Timothy is instructed to set an example in this area?
1. Because the Ephesian Christians needed the example!
   a. Either they are out of order themselves; (Christians have a tendency to get slack. or
   b. A true example will make the false teachers and error apparent.
   c. What do you think of a teacher who cusses? Has outburst’s of anger? Uses Lord’s name in
      vain? Uses Lord’s name as an expletive?

B. A Christians words should be true.
1. Maybe the false teachers were babbling? Do you KNOW what you are talking about?
2. Are you prepared to give reasons for the hope that is within you? Reasons for the doctrine you
   teach? Is your talk full of holes? Logically sound or just manipulative?
3. Words should demonstrate knowledge, understanding, prudence, compassion, love ...

C. What is the nature of your normal daily conversation? Your λόγος words?
1. Just about like everyone else in church?
   a. Maybe it ought to be better! Like Christ’s instead of like the members?!
   b. OK to gossip if we start with “don’t tell anyone” or, “I probably shouldn’t say this…”
2. Maybe just a little better that everyone else in school or work?
b. Read Ephesians 4:29 and set an example of it for believers.

3. Who sets the standard that you personally follow? Society? Church? or Christ?!!!!
4. Set the example; Speak truth even when they expect you to tell a little white lie, When you hear folks talking about someone; Talk only as Christ would talk!

Second item says take a look at your whole life behavior. Lead the church down the right path.

III. Set an example for them in your “life” (conduct).
A. This is a big category. (Ἀνάστροφη) “one’s entire way of life”
   1. Not just on Sunday morning, but make imitating Christ your life! 24-7.
   2. In your school plans. Travel plans. Work plans. Are you looking for a job, or a job that will glorify God? A college, or a college that will glorify God? A house to purchase, or a house in a location that will enable you to grow strong in Christ and raise Christian kids?

B. Does your life example bring honor to Christ at all times?
   1. How is it the same or different than other peoples. Ask yourself - why?
   2. If you used Christ as an example instead of humans, how would you live differently?
   3. Don’t wait for friends, peers, family, church. You take the lead by example.

As those called out to serve and represent Christ Himself, we ought to each

IV. Set an example for believers in “love”.
A. Does love, (αγάπη) really govern your life; your religion?
   1. What is the goal of Christianity; do you know? Do you remember? (1 Timothy 1:5)
   2. Proper goals will keep Christians on proper path!
   4. Does love govern your dating, or does ερως?

B. Even Christians get their priorities mixed up;
   1. What is your “first love”? Does anything compete for God? Probably.. You take lead!
   2. Set example of love to all people; in kindness, generosity, thoughtfulness, evangelism …
   3. Does love motivate you to baptize a person, or are you just wanting a personal success?

Christianity is about faith. Romans 1:17: “For in the gospel a righteousness from God is revealed, a righteousness that is by faith from first to last, just as it is written: “The righteous will live by faith.” If that’s what it’s about,

V. Set an example for believers in your faith.
A. Show the world you trust God completely. Show Christians you trust …
   1. Even when things are going rough for you; When you are AFRAID to do right …
   2. Even when aggravated at certain people; be faithful in worship and behavior.

B. Faith is contagious. Read Romans 1:12.
   1. How would your trust in God be stronger if you were surrounded by Moses, Abraham, David, Paul, instead of those around you?
   2. Why don’t you be the strong one? Why don’t you live it like you preach it?

C. Faith (πίστις)is also your own trustworthiness!
   1. Do you keep the doctrines?
   2. Do you keep your word? Can they count on you completely?
   3. If God is faithful, His children should be also! Completely dependable!

Christians are set aside for the use of a holy and pure God, for holy and pure purposes and to illustrate holiness and purity. A bride that is holy and pure;

VI. Set an example in “purity”.
A. It was our purity (σωτις) that Christ died for! Read Titus 2:11-15
   1. Here is where the integrity of Christians (church) can really show.
   2. Go elsewhere when they watch impure thoughts on television.
   3. Refuse to connive against someone they are angry with.
4. Be open and transparent; no shady activities! No twisting truth. Walk fully in the Light!

B. Is your behavior “chaste”, pure?
   1. When you are dating? When you are watching TV?
   2. When you are alone in your thoughts? No one is around?

So What?
   If we would maintain the integrity of the church, we need to maintain personal integrity first. That is you. It starts and ends with you! In the end, you will stand before God alone to make account of your deeds. We can look at problems dealing with integrity of the church; - and solutions, -but if the individual fails to maintain integrity, it is of no avail. The honor, the praise-worthiness, the integrity of the Lord’s church comes down to YOU. What does our life do for the integrity of the church? You take the lead. “…set an example for the believers in speech, in life, in love, in faith and in purity.”
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Memory: 1 Timothy 4:12:
"D__l__a__l__d__o__y__b__y__a__y__, b_s_a_e_f_t_b_i_s__, i_l__, i_l__, i_f_a_i_p___."

We Each Need To Determine To Set A Good Example Of Christianity.
The things Paul tells young Timothy in this section ought to serve to encourage and motivate each of us to set an example for everyone, including believers.

I. Never Let Age Hinder Truth.
A. Truth outweighs age in value

B. Age is never an excuse to be irresponsible in behavior.
   Matthew 11:25-26. Matthew 18:3

C. It is your personal responsibility to take a stand in doing what is Right!

II. Determine To Set A Leading Example With Your Life.
A. Be an example to those who are already Christians!

B. You can personally take a leadership role!

C. Set the example for them in your speech. Ephesians 4:29

D. Set the example for them in your life.

E. Set the example for them in your love.

F. Set the example for them in your faith.

G. Set the example for them in your purity.

So What?
Are you just a kid, or are you a Christian?! At whatever age you are, Scripture urges you to set an example of Christ-likeness.