

## Securing Future Generations Through Our Personal Example

Pastor George Stahnke, 02/06/2005

As a pastor, father and grandfather I am very concerned for the future of the family and the church. We live in a world where the majority of people believe that there is no absolute truth and practice situational ethics. The rule of the day seems to be “do unto others before they do it to you”. In our feel good society moral failure in the church has reached epidemic proportions. Is there hope for the future? Can we reclaim that which has been weakened and lost?

Absolutely if we can be deliberate in our approach, setting an example for the next generation. Let take an in depth look at Paul's counsel to his young friend Timothy.

**1 Timothy 4:12 (NIV)** Don't let anyone look down on you because you are young, but set an example for the believers in speech, in life, in love, in faith and in purity

### 1. The importance of example

- Jesus told his followers to learn from his example

**Matthew 11:29 (NASB)** “Take My yoke upon you and learn from Me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls.

- Paul followed the example of Christ and became an example to others

**1 Corinthians 11:1 (NIV)** Follow my example, as I follow the example of Christ.

- Paul encouraged the Philippians to follow his example

**Philippians 3:17 - 18 (NLT)** <sup>17</sup>Dear brothers and sisters, pattern your lives after mine, and learn from those who follow our example. <sup>18</sup>For I have told you often before, and I say it again with tears in my eyes, that there are many whose conduct shows they are really enemies of the cross of Christ.

- The Thessalonians followed the apostles example and became examples to others

**1 Thessalonians 1:6 - 8 (NIV)** <sup>6</sup>You became imitators of us and of the Lord; in spite of severe suffering, you welcomed the message with the joy given by the Holy Spirit. <sup>7</sup>And so you became a model to all the believers in Macedonia and Achaia. <sup>8</sup>The Lord's message rang out from you not only in Macedonia and Achaia—your faith in God has become known everywhere.

### 2. An example in speech

**Speech: G3056** λόγος *logos* *log'-os*, In “speech,” that is, your manner of conversation. This does not refer to his “public teaching”—in which he could not probably be an “example” to them—but to his usual and familiar conversation. —Barnes' Notes on the New Testament

**Ephesians 4:29 (AMP)** Let no foul {or} polluting language, {nor} evil word {nor} unwholesome {or} worthless talk [ever] come out of your mouth, but only such [speech] as is good {and} beneficial to the spiritual progress of others, as is fitting to the need {and} the occasion, that it may be a blessing {and} give grace (God's favor) to those who hear it.

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**Ephesians 5:3 - 4 (NLT)** <sup>3</sup>Let there be no sexual immorality, impurity, or greed among you. Such sins have no place among God's people. <sup>4</sup>Obscene stories, foolish talk, and coarse jokes—these are not for you. Instead, let there be thankfulness to God.

**Colossians 3:8 (NASB)** But now you also, put them all aside: anger, wrath, malice, slander, *and* abusive speech from your mouth.

### 3. An example in life

**Conduct: G391** ἀναστροφή *anastrophē an-as-trof-ay'*

**James 3:13 (NASB)** Who among you is wise and understanding? Let him show by his good behavior his deeds in the gentleness of wisdom.

**1 Peter 2:11 - 12 (NASB)**

<sup>11</sup>Beloved, I urge you as aliens and strangers to abstain from fleshly lusts which wage war against the soul. <sup>12</sup>Keep your behavior excellent among the Gentiles, so that in the thing in which they slander you as evildoers, they may because of your good deeds, as they observe *them*, glorify God in the day of visitation.

**1 Peter 1:14 - 16 (NASB)** <sup>14</sup>As obedient children, do not be conformed to the former lusts *which were yours* in your ignorance, <sup>15</sup>but like the Holy One who called you, be holy yourselves also in all *your* behavior; <sup>16</sup>because it is written, "You shall be holy, for I am holy."

**Ephesians 4:21 - 24 (NIV)** <sup>21</sup>Surely you heard of him and were taught in him in accordance with the truth that is in Jesus. <sup>22</sup>You were taught, with regard to your former way of life, to put off your old self, which is being corrupted by its deceitful desires; <sup>23</sup>to be made new in the attitude of your minds; <sup>24</sup>and to put on the new self, created to be like God in true righteousness and holiness.

**Titus 1:16 (NIV)** They claim to know God, but by their actions they deny him. They are detestable, disobedient and unfit for doing anything good.

### 4. An example in love

**Love: G26** ἀγάπη *agapē ag-ah'-pay*, *Unselfish, loyal, and benevolent concern for the well-being of another.* —Holman Bible Dictionary

**John 15:12 - 13 (NIV)** <sup>12</sup>My command is this: Love each other as I have loved you. <sup>13</sup>Greater love has no one than this, that he lay down his life for his friends.

**1 Corinthians 13:1 - 3 (NASB)** <sup>1</sup>If I speak with the tongues of men and of angels, but do not have love, I have become a noisy gong or a clanging cymbal. <sup>2</sup>If I have *the gift of* prophecy, and know all mysteries and all knowledge; and if I have all faith, so as to remove mountains, but do not have love, I am nothing. <sup>3</sup>And if I give all my possessions to feed *the poor*, and if I surrender my body to be burned, but do not have love, it profits me nothing.

### 5. An example in faith

**Faith: G4102** πίστις *pistis pis'-tis*, *Faith here does not refer to belief, but to faithfulness or unswerving commitment. An excellent minister is consistently faithful. He does not swerve off the track; he does not deviate from his course.* —MacArthur's New Testament Commentary: 1 Timothy

**1 Corinthians 1:9 (NASB)** God is faithful, through whom you were called into fellowship with His Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

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**Matthew 25:14 - 30 (NIV)** <sup>14</sup>“Again, it will be like a man going on a journey, who called his servants and entrusted his property to them. <sup>15</sup>To one he gave five talents of money, to another two talents, and to another one talent, each according to his ability. Then he went on his journey. <sup>16</sup>The man who had received the five talents went at once and put his money to work and gained five more. <sup>17</sup>So also, the one with the two talents gained two more. <sup>18</sup>But the man who had received the one talent went off, dug a hole in the ground and hid his master’s money. <sup>19</sup>“After a long time the master of those servants returned and settled accounts with them. <sup>20</sup>The man who had received the five talents brought the other five. ‘Master,’ he said, ‘you entrusted me with five talents. See, I have gained five more.’ <sup>21</sup>“His master replied, ‘Well done, good and faithful servant! You have been faithful with a few things; I will put you in charge of many things. Come and share your master’s happiness!’ <sup>22</sup>“The man with the two talents also came. ‘Master,’ he said, ‘you entrusted me with two talents; see, I have gained two more.’ <sup>23</sup>“His master replied, ‘Well done, good and faithful servant! You have been faithful with a few things; I will put you in charge of many things. Come and share your master’s happiness!’ <sup>24</sup>“Then the man who had received the one talent came. ‘Master,’ he said, ‘I knew that you are a hard man, harvesting where you have not sown and gathering where you have not scattered seed. <sup>25</sup>So I was afraid and went out and hid your talent in the ground. See, here is what belongs to you.’ <sup>26</sup>“His master replied, ‘You wicked, lazy servant! So you knew that I harvest where I have not sown and gather where I have not scattered seed? <sup>27</sup>Well then, you should have put my money on deposit with the bankers, so that when I returned I would have received it back with interest.’ <sup>28</sup>“Take the talent from him and give it to the one who has the ten talents. <sup>29</sup>For everyone who has will be given more, and he will have an abundance. Whoever does not have, even what he has will be taken from him. <sup>30</sup>And throw that worthless servant outside, into the darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.’

## 6. An example in purity

**Purity: G47** ἁγνεία *hagneia hag-ni'-ah*, refers primarily to purity in the area of sexuality, both in actions and in the intentions of the heart. —MacArthur's New Testament Commentary: 1 Timothy

**2 Timothy 2:22 (NASB)** Now flee from youthful lusts and pursue righteousness, faith, love and peace, with those who call on the Lord from a pure heart.

**2 Timothy 2:22 (TMNT)** Run away from infantile indulgence. Run after mature righteousness—faith, love, peace—joining those who are in honest and serious prayer before God.

**1 John 3:2 - 3 (NIV)** Dear friends, now we are children of God, and what we will be has not yet been made known. But we know that when he appears, we shall be like him, for we shall see him as he is. <sup>3</sup>Everyone who has this hope in him purifies himself, just as he is pure.

**Philippians 4:8 - 9 (NIV)** <sup>8</sup>Finally, brothers, whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable—if anything is excellent or praiseworthy—think about such things. <sup>9</sup>Whatever you have learned or received or heard from me, or seen in me—put it into practice. And the God of peace will be with you.

**2 Corinthians 7:1 (NIV)** Since we have these promises, dear friends, let us purify ourselves from everything that contaminates body and spirit, perfecting holiness out of reverence for God.

I am convinced that If we will live these truths out by example that we can capture the hearts and minds of the next generation.