

# Be Thou an Example

## 1 Timothy 4:12

### I. Background

- a. Timothy – Acts 16:1-2
- b. Timothy in Ephesus for this purpose – 1 Timothy 1:3
- c. Paul wrote for this purpose – 1 Timothy 3:15

### II. Why this exhortation?

- a. Inclination to look down upon the young
  - i. Can be the fault of Timothy or of his audience
  - ii. Solution: be an example of what you teach

### III. Be an example in:

- a. Word, speech
  - i. James 3:6-10
  - ii. Ephesians 4:25-31; 5:4
  - iii. Titus 2:6-8
- b. Conduct, manner of living
  - i. 1 Peter 1:14-18
  - ii. 1 Peter 3:1-2
  - iii. Ephesians 4:1; 5:3
- c. Charity, love
  - i. Some Greek words for love: storge = natural affection; phileo = bond of friendship; eros = romantic or sexual love
  - ii. But the charity or love of this context: agape – selfless love seeking the welfare of its object
    1. 1 Timothy 1:5
    2. Love of God – John 14:15
    3. Love of brethren
      - a. Romans 12:9
      - b. 1 Peter 1:22
      - c. 1 Peter 4:8; James 5:19-20
    4. Love of neighbor
      - a. James 1:27
    5. To what extent? Consider the example of Paul: 2 Corinthians 12:15
- d. Spirit (not in ASV, NASB)
  - i. Attitude, disposition
  - ii. 1 Timothy 2:2
  - iii. 1 Timothy 2:23-26

- iv. 1 Timothy 6:6
- v. 2 Timothy 1:7-8
- vi. Philippians 4:10-13

e. Faith

- i. 1 Timothy 4:6, 7, 16
- ii. 2 Timothy 3:14-15

f. Purity

- i. 1 Timothy 1:5
- ii. 1 Timothy 2:8
- iii. 1 Timothy 3:8
- iv. 1 Timothy 5:2
- v. 1 Timothy 5:22
- vi. 2 Timothy 2:22
- vii. Titus 1:15

g. Faith, the basis or foundation; love, both the purpose and the fruit of the gospel; spirit, our attitude; conduct, what we do, and word, what we say.

IV. The power of example

a. Bad example

- i. Romans 2:21-24

b. Good example

- i. 1 Thessalonians 1:7
- ii. Philippians 3:17

V. Consider the example you are setting

- a. To children & grandchildren and vice-versa, your brethren, your neighbor or friend, your acquaintances however casual
- b. Do as I do, or don't do as I do?
- c. Don't do as I do, but I will keep on doing?
- d. Don't do as I do, but I have my reason?
  - i. Proverbs 21:2

VI. Conclusion

- a. We need examples in our lives
- b. Examples are to be recognized, noted, followed
- c. Great power in example