

SET AN EXAMPLE / *1 Corinthians 4:17*

Throughout Scripture, setting an example is an important element of discipleship.

- Matthew 11:29—"Take my yoke upon you."
Jesus told his followers to learn from his example of gentleness and humility.
- Philippians 3:17—"Pattern your lives after mine."
Paul urged believers to follow his example of enthusiasm, perseverance, and maturity.
- 1 Thessalonians 1:6-7—"You imitated both us and the Lord . . . You yourselves became an example."
The new Christians at Thessalonica received training in discipleship from Paul, and even in suffering they modeled before others what they had learned.
- 1 Timothy 1:16—"But that is why God had mercy on me, so that Christ Jesus could use me as a prime example of his patience with even the worse sinners."
Paul used his unworthiness to receive Christ as an example of grace so that no one would hold back from coming to Christ.
- 1 Peter 5:3—"Don't lord it over the people assigned to your care, but lead them by your good example."
Peter taught Christian leaders to lead by example, not by commands.

Paul told the Corinthian believers to follow his example. As the body of Christ, believers must show Christ to the world by being examples. Nonbelievers should be able to see Christ in believers and be so drawn to what they see that they seek Christ and his salvation. What kind of example are you?