

Imitate Their Faith

November 11th & 12th, 2017

Philippians 3:17

“... join in imitating me ...”

- ❖ Learning by example is a way of life!
- ❖ Learning by example is God’s way of discipleship!

Jesus said ...

“For I have given you an example, that you also should do just as I have done to you.” John 13:15

*“Go therefore and make disciples ... teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. ...”
Matthew 28:19-20*

“Truly, Truly, I say to you, whoever believes in me will also do the works that I do; and greater works than these will he do, because I am going to the Father.” John 14:12

- ❖ Paul encouraged Christians to learn by example!
“Be imitators of me, as I am of Christ.” 1 Corinthians 11:1
Imitate: To follow in manners, To Emulate, To be like
- ◆ Paul’s key point is that **as he follows Christ**, then follow him.
- ◆ There are good and bad examples:

Mickey Mantle

Los Angeles Times, Monday, August 14, 1995

“Mickey Mantle, an almost mythical baseball star who feared he had failed to fulfill career expectations because of alcohol abuse and whose recent years were haunted by self-recrimination, died of cancer early Sunday. He was 63. The former New York Yankees center fielder and a member of baseball's Hall of Fame said at a July 28 news conference that he had squandered a gifted life and warned admirers he was no role model. ‘God gave me the ability to play baseball. God gave me everything,’ he said. ‘For the kids out there, ... don't be like me.’”¹

“... keep your eyes on those who walk according to the example you have in us.”

- ❖ The Example of Godly Leaders
“Remember your leaders, those who spoke to you the Word of God. Consider the outcome of their way of life and imitate their faith. Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever.” Hebrews 13:7-8
- ❖ The Example of Elders
“[Elders]...being examples to the flock.” 1 Peter 5:3
- ❖ Paul’s Example
 - 2 Timothy 3:10-17
- ❖ Paul’s Encouragement to Timothy to be an example
“Let no one despise you for your youth, but set the believers an example in speech, in conduct, in love, in faith, in purity.” 1 Timothy 4:12

❖ Paul's Directive to Timothy

“and what you have heard from me in the presence of many witnesses entrust to faithful men who will be able to teach others also.” 2 Timothy 2:2

Philippians 4:9

“What you have learned and received and heard and seen in me – practice these things, and the God of peace will be with you.”

Endnotes:

¹“Mickey Mantle.” *SermonSearch.com*. Salem Church Products. © 2017 Salem Church Products All Rights Reserved. www.sermonsearch.com/sermon-illustrations/1383/mickey-mantle/.

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