

## Daily Devotional, October 16, 2020 Christ's Image is Our Prototype

*<sup>1</sup> Follow my example, as I follow the example of Christ. <sup>2</sup> I praise you for remembering me in everything and for holding to the traditions just as I passed them on to you. 1 Corinthians 11:1-2 (NIV)*

As a pastor, I have come to be very familiar with examples. I suppose this is because, if I don't give examples for the points that I preach and teach, then it can leave most people not completely understanding the message.

As much as it is vital for me to have examples when I preach, it is absolutely essential for us to have good examples in life. And if we aren't careful about the examples that we choose for ourselves, then we set ourselves up for misunderstanding what life is really about and we end up facing the consequences of living life for all the wrong things.

When Paul spoke to the Corinthian people in our verses today, they had chosen the wrong example to follow in many parts of their lives. They had chosen the ways of the world rather than the ways of Christ, which led to the many troubles that their church now faced.

So Paul tells them, NO! Let's get our eyes off of our culture and set our eyes back on Jesus. And if you need an example, then imitate me. Follow the example of how I live *my* life. Now, getting this straight, Paul does not want them to see him as much as he wants them to see Christ *in* Paul.

I think a good illustration to keep in mind, a good word picture of what Paul is saying here is the picture of the potter and the clay. In imagining that picture, you have to ask yourself if you have submitted your life into God's hands to shape you and to make you and to mold you into the image of His glory? Or have you chosen to allow the world shape and mold your life?

That is exactly the example that Paul uses in Romans 12:2 when he says, ***“Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is—his good, pleasing and perfect will.”*** Don't allow the world to set the example for you to follow. Don't let the world squeeze you into its mold as if it were your potter. Let God be your potter.

Now, there will be times when God is going to move us to do something that we might not be comfortable with. It might be something that we don't want because it isn't what the rest of the world is doing. It's being something that makes no sense to us because of all the time we've spent letting the world be our example.

The thing is, God has no intention of molding you the way that the world would mold you. God's plan is perfect. You should expect it to look different. You should expect and appreciate having yourself being set apart, made holy, and purified by the Lord, to be made beautiful in God's hands for God's glory and honor in this world.

God has an unbelievable plan that will be delivered to you as you surrender yourself to God's hand in shaping and molding your life. But if you're going to take part in this process, you first must look at who your example is in life. Is your example a model of Christ, or is it someone who is following the world? As Paul would implore, “follow my example”.

***Prayer: Lord Jesus, thank You that You have incredible plans for my life. Please show me the right examples to follow as You shape me into all You have created me to be! In Your most holy and precious name. Amen.***