

Be a Positive Role Model

There are people around you who can use a positive role model in their lives, someone who can look to you as an example. It may be your grandchildren or another young mind looking to be molded and shaped. It may be someone you are not even aware of, but who needs a positive influence. There are people in our lives who want us to share our lives with them. Whose life have you involved yourself in to be a positive role model?

If you go through the Bible and think of the different people who got involved in the life of someone else and were a positive influence, you might think of the relationship between Moses and Joshua. God told Moses specifically to take Joshua aside and teach him for the time when he would take his place (Deut. 3.28).

If you look in the New Testament to find an example of a positive role model, you might think about the apostle Paul and his young protégé, Timothy. Paul refers to Timothy as “*a true son in the faith*” (1 Tim. 1.2). In Philippians 2, Paul refers to Timothy and says, “*For I have no one like-minded, who will sincerely care for your state*” (Phil. 2.20). There was a beautiful father-son relationship between Paul and Timothy.

We can also find someone who was that positive influence in Paul's life. After Paul was converted in Acts 9, he tried to join the church in Jerusalem, but they were very concerned about him and the things he had done in the past. It was Barnabas who brought Paul to the apostles and vouched for him (Acts 9.26,27). From chapter 11 all the way to chapter 13.7, you will read about “*Barnabas and Saul*.” In Acts 13.9, there is a parenthetical statement where Saul is also called Paul, and from there you see a change in the dynamic of their relationship. No longer is it Barnabas and Saul, but Paul and Barnabas.

Was there someone in your past who was a role model? Who can you credit for being the person you are today? There are people in your life who need a good role model. They need someone to invest in their lives and help them reach their full potential. Won't you be that positive influence for them? CLP

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“Go into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature”
-Mark 16.15

March 2, 2025

MEETING TIMES:

SUNDAY MORNING BIBLE CLASS : 9:00 AM

SUNDAY MORNING WORSHIP: 9:50 AM

SUNDAY EVENING WORSHIP: 6:00 PM

WEDNESDAY EVENING BIBLE CLASS 7:00 PM

How Do You Worship?

Psalm 147.1 tells us, “*Praise the Lord! For it is good to sing praises to our God; For it is pleasant, and praise is beautiful.*” In the eyes of God, what we do when we come together to worship is a pleasant and beautiful thing. There ought to be no greater joy than to extend our hearts upward in worship and praise to God. Unfortunately, in the religious world, you will not find a subject that has caused greater division than that of worship.

In reference to worship, Jesus tells us that “*the Father is seeking such to worship Him*” (John 4.23). Yet not all worship is acceptable to God. In the previous verse, Jesus references those who worship what they do not know (John 4.22). It is possible for one to be enthralled in the exuberance of praise, and yet God says, “*I do not savor you sacred assemblies...Take away from Me the noise of your songs*” (Amos 5:21-24).

What kind of worship does God accept? “*Those who worship Him must worship in spirit and truth*” (John 4.24). This verse says that we worship God. It says that our worship is to be with the right attitude (spirit). It says that it is to be consistent with the worship dictated by God in His word (truth).

The kind of worship that God desires is also the kind that He requires. It is a “*must*” (John 4.24). How do you worship God?

THE CHILDREN OF GOD

1 JOHN 3:1

INTRODUCTION:

1. In the backdrop of John's epistle is a rising influence called the Gnostics who insist Jesus cannot be the Son of God. (1 John 4.3)
2. In the contextual flow John testifies that Jesus is the Son of God and fellowship is only possible through Him. (1 John 1.1-3; 2.26)

I. THE CAUSE OF FELLOWSHIP

- A. We are the children of God because of the love of God.
 1. **1 John 3.1:** *"Behold what manner of love the Father has bestowed on us..."*
 2. In an emphatic declaration, we are in fellowship with God because of what God did. (cf. Deut. 7.6-8)
- B. How did God demonstrate His love?
 1. **Romans 5.8:** *"But God demonstrates His own love toward us..."* How do you know God loves you?
 2. Would you die for the ungodly? (Rom. 5.6-8)

II. THE CONFIDENCE OF FELLOWSHIP

- A. We can be confident of our eternal future.
 1. A statement of confidence in our present. (1 John 3.2)
 2. A statement of confidence in our future. (1 John 3.2)
 3. **1 John 3.3:** *"Everyone who has this hope..."*
- B. What body is in our future?
 1. **1 Corinthians 15.35:** *"But someone will say, 'How are the dead raised up? And with what body do they come?'"*
 2. It will be a spiritual body. (1 Cor. 15.44,53).

III. THE CONDITIONS OF FELLOWSHIP

- A. Condition #1: Purity
 1. **1 John 3.3:** *"purifies himself"*
 2. Making and maintaining purity. (cf. 1 Pet. 1.22)
- B. Condition #2: Sinlessness
 1. **1 John 3.4-6:** *"does not sin"*
 2. Ongoing action refers to a lifestyle of sin.
- C. Condition #3: Righteousness
 1. **1 John 3.7:** *"practices righteousness"*
 2. Ongoing action refers to a lifestyle of righteousness.

CONCLUSION: Fellowship with God centers around Jesus.

Ambassadors for Christ

What is an ambassador? In our English language, an ambassador is an official representative of one government to another government. In our country, there are a number of ambassadors who go to foreign countries as official representatives to the United States who speak on our behalf and campaign for our interests.

Did you know that Jesus has ambassadors. The Bible refers to individuals who represent the interests of Jesus and speak on His behalf. In Ephesians 6.20, Paul wrote, *"I am an ambassador in chains."* Then in 2 Corinthians 5.20, this same author wrote, *"Now then, we are ambassadors for Christ."* In this second passage, notice the pronoun, "we." Paul included those who were with him as ambassadors. In both of these passages, we learn that as a representative of Jesus, Paul was a spokesman, speaking on behalf of the Father and the Son.

The book of Ephesians is one of four prison epistles, epistles he wrote while in prison. In the immediate context of Ephesians 6, Paul is encouraging the brethren to offer supplications, that is, prayers on behalf of others. There are two groups for which Paul wants them to pray. First, he writes to offer supplication *"for all the saints"* (Eph. 6.18). Second, he wants them to offer supplication *"for me, that utterance may be given to me, that I may open my mouth boldly to make known the mystery of the gospel"* (Eph. 6.19). It is here that Paul identifies himself as an ambassador (Eph. 6.20).

As an ambassador, Paul was the spokesman for Christ whose responsibility was to communicate the gospel. After his conversion, Jesus told him His purpose was *"to make you a minister and to witness both of the things which you have seen and of the things which you have heard"* (Acts 26.16). Being an ambassador was such a tremendous responsibility (cf. 2 Cor. 2.16), that he asked his brethren to pray that he might be able to speak as he ought to speak.

In 2 Corinthians 5.20, we see a similar concept. Paul identifies himself as an ambassador for Christ and then makes this statement: *"as though God were pleading through us: we implore you on Christ's behalf, be reconciled to God."* Paul was speaking on Christ's behalf. And he refers to himself as an ambassador.

Did you know that everyone who obeys the gospel are ambassadors for Christ? Why do our good works glorify God? (Matt. 5.16). It is because we are His representatives. What we do reflects back on Him. What does the accuracy of our message matter? (Gal. 1.6-9). It is because we are speaking on God's behalf. It is His message we are sharing (1 Pet. 4.11).

Knowing that we are spokesman for Christ, let's pray for boldness that we might make known the mystery (Acts 4.29). CLP