

BE AN EXAMPLE (I Timothy 4:12)

I Timothy 4:12-16 As believers, we are all marked people because others are watching us. Whether we want to be scrutinized or not they watch to see if being a Christian really makes a difference.

II Corinthians 23:1-3 Most people, including those who are “Christians” do not read their bible but they are reading you and me. They are watching each chapter of your life and mine to see just how being a believer makes a difference when things do not go just the way we want them to go. What are they watching out for in our lives?

OUR WORDS

I Timothy 4:12 Whether in private conversation with people or public teaching or preaching, Christian people should set the right example of speaking with truth and grace.

Matthew 12:34 They listen to how we talk, what we say, and how we say it. Remember that Jesus warns us that what comes out of our mouth tells the world what we think, what is inside, who we are.

Colossians 4:6; Eph. 4:29 Paul tells the church to be careful to think before we talk so that when we give an answer or say anything to others our speech may be graceful and words that will help others.

OUR CONVERSATION

I Timothy 4:12 Our conversation refers to our conduct, our lifestyle. It doesn't matter to a saved person or lost person if they see us being happy when all is good in our life, they think “so what.” What they are watching for is how we react to tragedy, heartache, illness and troubles. Does your Christianity work when things are going bad in your life, whether finances, relationships, or jobs are lost.

James 3:13 James tells us that a “wise and knowledgeable man” will have good works in his life that are done with meekness, humility and with Godly wisdom.

I Peter 2:11-12 Peter warns us to have a lifestyle that is strong and able to abstain from the temptations of the world. By acting right and showing a Godly example the lost person takes notice.

OUR LOVE

Matthew 5:44-47 The greatest example we are to be is that of our love for each other and for those that do not love back. People that do not have the characteristic of love in their life are the people who are quick to pick up on our lack of love as believers. Our love for each other is vital to Christ's church.

Galatians 6:9-10 As Christ taught His disciples to love each other, we too are to have a sincere love and care for others, “especially unto them who are of the household of God.”

OUR SPIRIT

Romans 12:9-11 Believers are to have a 'spirit' of fervency in what we do, as in our service, in our love for each other, in our business within and without the church.

I Timothy 1:7 People who are watching us don't need to see someone who has a 'spirit' of fear, a spirit of murmuring, or a spirit of heaviness. They need to see a spirit of love, and of Godly power.

OUR FAITH

Hebrews 11:6; Revelation 2:9-10 How much does it take to destroy our confidence in God? God promises trials and tribulations in our lives. People are watching and expecting to see faith in action.