

MY BROTHERS KEEPER

I Corinthians 10:32

No Spirit filled Christian believes they or another believer would deliberately cause another person to be lost or would intentionally lead another Christian away from God. No Spirit filled believer would ever purposely deny the Lord or do something that would cause others to doubt God or the bible.

The Christian life is one of learning, growing, and maturing. To continue to grow, believers must continually examine and evaluate ourselves to see where we can improve our testimony.

BEING AN EXAMPLE

I Timothy 4:11-12 We must consider the fact that we as believers have a great influence on those people around us, our family, our co-workers, our neighbors and friends. Paul says, "be an example."

a) The word "be" is an action word and if we are "to be" and example it requires action on our part.

b) In **4:6** Paul reminds Timothy that "if" he put them in remembrance of being Godly then he would be a good minister of Jesus Christ. That little word "if" insinuates responsibility and also insinuates that if he does not be the example God requires of him then he would not be considered "good."

Romans 14:13 There are two kinds of examples we can be. Paul tells us what we can do to be a good example. He tells us to not judge others but to make sure we do not become a stumbling block in our brothers way of spiritual growth. This verse has the message that we can cause our brethren to fall.

Hebrews 10:24-25 The writer tells us here to be considerate of one another and be a good example by serving God by our good works and encouraging others to do the same. We are good examples to each other by our attendance to the church services and by encouraging others to be in church also.

I Corinthians 8:9; I Thessalonians 5:22 Many believers have habits that can be looked upon as questionable or on the fence spiritually: smoking, drinking wine, dress code, overeating, going to movies, dancing, missing church services, etc. Paul says that we should take heed and be careful of these things in front of other believers and in view of those that are not believers.

Titus 2:1-8; I Peter 3:1, 7 Paul and Peter are told to exhort the more mature men and women brethren to be good examples to younger believers regarding living a Godly Christian lifestyle.

BEING A STUMBLINGBLOCK

Malachi 2:8; I Peter 2:9 God rebuked the spiritual leaders of Israel because by their sin they led the nation into sin also. The New Testament makes it clear that believers are God's priests and must keep a good testimony before the church and the lost. When we fall into sin we are causing others to fall.

Mat. 5:13; John 21:3 Imagine how this must have hurt Jesus? Seven of His Apostles decide to leave the ministry because of discouragement and go back to the world because of Peter's poor example.

Galatians 2:11-13 Once again Peter's poor example led him to become a stumbling block for all the other Jewish believers because of his being carnal and backslidden.

I Corinthians 15:33 A spiritual law that is overlooked is that God warns against fellowship with non-believers. Friends that are lost and unmoved by our witness they will ruin your testimony before God.

Matthew 26:69-74 When we become so calloused and backslidden from God and our Savior that we are capable of even denying Christ out of fear or embarrassment. I wonder how many believers we hurt and how many unbelievers will never get saved because of us being a stumbling block in their path.

II Timothy 4:9-10 How many believers have discouraged the spiritual leaders of a church because they become tired or upset with their service and have quit the ministry and became a stumbling block.

Acts 15:36-39 Here is a good example of what can happen when someone becomes a stumbling block between brethren. Church splits and problems between good Christians happen over these things.