

Set Yourself an Example

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Introduction

- From the beginning of time, We were created to reflect God's Image. Genesis 1:26
- Sin enters and has destroyed this image. In fact Romans 1:30 says we are inventors of evil. Just like our generation...
- In the midst of this all this mess, Jesus steps in 2000 years ago to die for you and me on the Cross to restore this image.
- But the World will only see this image if we as God's people rise up and show this true picture.
- We start by Imitate God (Ephesians 5:1), we are called to be different
- I can share a lot of places on being different... Noah, Moses, David, Daniel, Abraham
- This evening I want to focus on us as young people, Being an Example in this Generation, even in the Church
- Illustration: Talk about turning 25, who are the people that have influenced me? Not one young person in this list, it got me thinking

Focus Verse: 1 Timothy 4:12

- Paul writes to Timothy in his final words on what it takes to be set apart...

What are the traits of a person of example

In Speech

- Words have power, in fact, the World was created by what God spoke!
- The words we speak. What is coming out of our mouth? Our tongue is a powerful weapon.
- What we speak, the words we release carries power. (Proverbs 18:21; James 3).
- So many times we hurt ourselves and others by what we release from our mouths.
- We need to be a people that speak life, from God's Word!
- Jesus is our best role model, in John 8. They bring an adulterous woman to Jesus with accusations. But look at what Jesus did... They had rocks in their hands but Jesus stood there and then spoke life to her.

In conduct

- Your character is the greatest thing you carry regardless of your talent. We need to be a people that build character before anything else (Proverbs 4:23)
- A lot of times we can get carried away with our strength and talents
- God is looking for people who have Christ-like character
- Simon the sorcerer in Acts 8:18-20 was rejected because of his evil desires especially verse 21
- Esau selling his birthright for soup! Hebrews 12:16-17. He did not take his covenant blessing seriously!

In Love

- We love differently, we love the way Jesus loved. He sat with sinners and dirty people. He loved them, we need to love the way God loves.
- In fact, Jesus loved us even when while we were sinners
- A lot of times we love the way we see things in the natural in people. All of us are broken and carry scars.
- People are struggling and looking for love, that's when we step up in love, Christ-like love
- That's why I love cell-groups and small groups, that's the place to be at home, to love and care for each other!

In Faith

- We need to set an example of Faith in our generation.
- Amongst Christians as well.
- Paul & Silas in Prison (Acts 16), when nothing was great around them they had Faith and because of that it will bless everyone
- Your cup will overflow (Psalms 23:5) and others will be blessed by your Faith
- God loves people of exceptional faith. (Hebrews 12:6)
- Luke 7:8, Jesus was marvelled at the faith of this Roman soldier
- Hebrews 12 talks about the hall of Faith. They are mentioned here because of their Faith (Read Hebrews 11 especially verse 2)
- In the same way, we need to be people of Faith even when there is no Faith around us

In Purity

- We need to set an example in being pure, set apart! (Matthew 5:8; Psalms 24:4-5)
- Now I realise that we live in a sinful world.

- It's like my friend in engineering who got a new car, then got a scratch
- Sometimes in life we get scars because of our past, mistakes we have committed.
- If your here with stains, Jesus is here to cleanse us of ALL sin. Psalms 51

1 Peter 2:9, a generation rising... each generation has a purpose, it's time for us to rise us and take our place for God's Kingdom

Prayer

- You think this is possible by ourselves? You could leave this place and start working on this... NO!
- We need to leave here with HELP, Two thoughts as we close
- A personal walk with the Lord, let's recommit our lives to Jesus! John 15
- We need the anointing of the Holy Spirit (Acts 1:8), pray for leaders...