

GIVE A GOOD EXAMPLE (1 Peter 2:19-21)

I. Jesus set an example of sanctification.

- A. When you study the life of Jesus, you see that Jesus was set apart from the world.
 - 1. I don't mean that Jesus didn't mix with those in the world.
 - 2. It is obvious that He did (Matthew 9:10-11; Luke 15:1).
- B. Jesus was set apart in that He did not let the world influence Him.
 - 1. The only thing Jesus had on His mind was pleasing the Father (John 8:29).
 - 2. Jesus understood how imperative it was to focus on the work of God (John 9:4 - emphasis on must).
 - 3. Jesus knew there was coming a time when He would not be able to work any longer.
- C. We are to be sanctified in our lives, set apart from the world.
 - 1. There was a time when we were a part of the world (1 Corinthians 6:9-10).
 - 2. When we became Christians that changed (6:11).
 - 3. Once we are sanctified, and that is by the blood of Christ (Hebrews 13:12), we are to be different from the world.
 - 4. We are to be people that have been transformed through a change in thinking which is brought about by our having been sanctified (Romans 12:1-2).
- D. We are to be different from the world (Titus 2:14) because God has such a great interest in us who have been redeemed.
- E. Sanctified people do not get involved with the sins of others but attempt to help others out of their sins and we do this through our example.
- F. A brief, simple, but expressive eulogy was pronounced by Martin Luther upon a pastor at Zwickau in 1522 named Nicholas Haussmann. "What we preach, he lived," said the great reformer.
- G. We need to be those who practice what we preach which we do when we are truly sanctified.

II. Jesus set an example of service.

- A. The book of Mark was written to Romans.
 - 1. The Roman culture valued men of action.
 - 2. As you read through Mark, you see Jesus constantly in action.
 - a. He is healing, teaching and preaching.
 - b. Jesus was constantly doing things for others.
- B. The life of Jesus was one lived in service to others (Mark 10:45).
 - 1. We see Jesus granting the requests of great multitudes of people to heal them.
 - 2. We see Jesus granting the request of one person to heal him or her.
 - 3. We see Jesus teaching to thousands or to one.
 - 4. Notice what Peter told Cornelius and his house about Jesus (Acts

10:38).

- C. Ultimately, we see Jesus serving the spiritual needs of all mankind through His death on the cross.
- D. You and I, as Christians are called to a life of service.
 - 1. First and foremost we serve God (1 Thessalonians 1:9).
 - 2. We are then to serve our fellow Christians (Galatians 5:13).
 - 3. We serve the lost as well, through acts of evangelism and benevolence.
- E. Paul wrote to the Romans about treating one another properly and said two things happen when we do (Romans 14:18).
 - 1. God is pleased.
 - 2. Men approve of our actions - our example commends the gospel to them.
- F. The old adage is true: we are saved to serve.

III. **Jesus set an example of suffering.**

- A. No one on the face of the earth has ever suffered as much as Jesus.
 - 1. He bore the sins of the world (1 Peter 2:24).
 - 2. He was treated terribly for our sakes and He took it without retaliation or bitterness (1 Peter 2:21-23).
 - 3. Jesus could have had the earth wiped clean (Matthew 26:53), but He didn't.
- B. Jesus showed us how to suffer for a reason: we are going to face suffering in this life (2 Timothy 3:12).
 - 1. There is going to come a time, if it hasn't already, and more than one, where we are going to suffer in some form for being a follower of Jesus.
 - 2. How are we going to react?
- C. There will possibly be a time where we suffer from some disease or illness.
 - 1. How are we going to react?
 - 2. Will we blame God or react in faith?
- D. Jesus set the example for us in how to deal with rejection, with persecution and even with death.
- E. If we are going to be Christ-like, we have to be people that react properly to the bad as well as the good.
- F. No one of us wants to suffer and Jesus did not either, praying for the cup of suffering to pass from Him if possible.
 - 1. However, when it is our turn to suffer, we can take strength from the example of Jesus.
 - 2. We must have His same attitude of doing the Father's will even when it is against ours.