

## INTRODUCTION

When our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ had died for our sins on the cross; and when He had been buried; and when He had risen to life again on the first day of the week, He appeared to His disciples several times over the course of 40 days, telling them what the church is to do in the time when He has ascended back to heaven, until He comes back again. In one of those appearances, our Lord Jesus told the disciples

Go make disciples of all nations - that is, we are to tell people of His death, burial, and resurrection, proclaiming repentance and forgiveness of sins in His name, promising eternal life to all who believe in Him

Teaching them to observe all things I have commanded - that is, we are to read the Bible to the Lord's disciples, exhort them to obey its commands, teach them to believe the truth of its doctrine

This work of speaking the word of God to sinners and to the saints falls most directly to the church's pastors, whose job it is by virtue of their office. Yet the whole church takes part in the work. And all Christians can speak of Jesus Christ to other people from time to time as the Lord gives opportunity.

But, what about those times when we would speak to others of Jesus Christ, but they don't want to listen to us? In the case of Timothy, it might have been because the older people in the church thought him too young to be instructing them. There are also many reasons people might not listen to us. What do we do about that?

The Bible says we are to be an example in all areas of life, and in setting a good example, we convince people to listen to the truth of what we are saying about Jesus Christ.

In 1 Timothy 4:12, six areas of life are mentioned, in which we are to be an example, to the other believers in the church, but also to the sinners around us, so they will not despise us when we speak of Jesus Christ, but will think well of us, and so will want to listen, and in listening to us will be saved, and will be built up in the faith.

Last week we considered how we are to be an example in word, in our speech.

Today we consider how we are to be an example in our conduct.

You might see in your Bible that where I am reading "conduct," your Bible says, "conversation." Today when we say, "conversation," we usually mean talking to other people, having a conversation. But when the older Bibles were translated, conversation meant our behavior or conduct in matters of right and wrong. So I'm going to say "conduct" most of the time today, by which I mean our behavior, our way of acting in matters of right and wrong, and our conversation in the old-fashioned sense.

## TEXT

1 Timothy 4:11-12 These things command and teach. 12 Let no one despise your youth, but be an example to the believers in word, in **conduct**, in love, in spirit, in faith, in purity.

You see that the word “conduct “ is not explained here; it just appears as one word in a list. So to expound that concept, we are going to another text, where the word appears twice, and is explained very helpfully to us.

1 Peter 1:13-19 Therefore gird up the loins of your mind, be sober, and rest your hope fully upon the grace that is to be brought to you at the revelation of Jesus Christ; 14 as obedient children, not conforming yourselves to the former lusts, as in your ignorance; 15 but as He who called you is holy, you also be holy in all your **conduct G391**, 16 because it is written, "BE HOLY, FOR I AM HOLY." 17 And if you call on the Father, who without partiality judges according to each one's work, conduct yourselves throughout the time of your stay here in fear; 18 knowing that you were not redeemed with corruptible things, like silver or gold, from your **aimless conduct G391** received by tradition from your fathers, 19 but with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot.

## BODY

To be an example in conduct,

### I. Consider the Concept As Related to Jesus Christ - 1 Peter 1:13-19

- A. What you know He has done for us - 18-19 knowing that you were not redeemed with corruptible things, like silver or gold, from your aimless **conduct** *received* by tradition from your fathers, but with the precious blood of Christ
  1. you used to be in slavery or bondage to the useless or aimless conduct that people have been doing for many centuries; you used to go around sinning, following the example of sinners older than you, who were following the example of sinners older than themselves, who unknowingly were following the example of sinners from many generations before them
  2. but you who are in Jesus Christ were redeemed, purchased and set free from that slavery or bondage
    - a) and what was needed to set you free? could you be bought out of that slavery like a slave or hostage can be bought with money? No
    - b) you had to be bought with a much more precious price; you were redeemed by the precious blood of Jesus Christ, shed for your sake on the cross
  3. when you keep in mind that such sinful, aimless conduct was the cause for Jesus shedding His blood for you, you will be greatly helped in being an example in conduct
- B. What you trust or hope He yet will do for us - 13b ...rest your hope fully upon the grace that is to be brought to you at the revelation of Jesus Christ
  1. GEN trust perfectly; KJV hope to the end
  2. at the revelation of Jesus Christ,
    - a) my poor body will be raised incorruptible, fit for eternal life
    - b) I will have no sin in me anymore, and will never sin again
    - c) all the sorrow, grief, tears of this life will be wiped away
    - d) I will be united with all those saints who have gone on before me
    - e) all my longing to be with my Lord and Savior Jesus Christ will be fulfilled
  3. we trust and hope for these things not because we think we can earn them somehow, but only because of God's grace toward us in Jesus Christ
  4. we trust and hope not partly in the grace of God, but fully and perfectly on the grace of God that is to be brought to us when Jesus Christ comes
  5. being an example in conduct must not be part of trying to be good enough to be saved; instead, it springs from hope or faith that you will be saved by God's grace when Jesus is revealed on the last day

To be an example in conduct,

Consider the concept as related to Jesus Christ, and

To be an example in conduct,

## II. Live As Obedient Children of God - 1 Peter 1:14-16

### A. We can understand this when it is put in terms of obedient children

note: this is the illustration here; but because so many of you here in front of me today are parents raising children, I will make some application of the illustration to you, for your help

1. as a child comes into this world, he behaves only according to his lusts or desires or urges
2. the job of the parents is to discipline him not to behave according to his lusts, but according to the words and example of his parents
  - a) do it the way I tell you
  - b) do it the way I show you
3. the father is not indulgent to the child, acting as if his bad behavior is good; instead, he punishes the child for wicked behavior; as a result, the child lives in appropriate fear of his father
  - a) my father does not let me get away with doing anything bad
  - b) he scolds me or spansks me if I do anything bad
  - c) so I fear him, and don't do anything bad
4. the child, then, is responsible to be obedient to obey his father and his mother
5. if the child does grow up as an obedient child, when he is older, he will be a good example to others

### B. So it is with being a good example as a Christian

1. 14 Not conforming yourselves to the former lusts, as in your ignorance
2. 15-16 But conforming yourselves to God, who is holy
  - a) conforming to His words about being holy
  - b) conforming to His example of being holy; especially as shown to us in Jesus Christ
3. 17 remembering that God is the impartial judge, conducting yourselves in fear

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Consider the concept as related to Jesus Christ,

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To be an example in conduct

III. Look Forward to What God Will Do Through Your Example

- A. In 1 Tim 4, the point is that a pastor is supposed to speak the word of God to the congregation; if they are inclined not to hear him, he is to win a hearing by being an example to the believers in his conduct
- B. But here in 1 Peter, where the same principle comes up, the application is not about gaining a hearing with the believers, but about gaining a hearing with unbelievers, both for their good and for our own
- C. 1 Peter 2:12 having your **conduct** honorable among the Gentiles, that when they speak against you as evildoers, they may, by your good works which they observe, glorify God in the day of visitation.
- D. 1 Peter 3:1-2 Wives, likewise, be submissive to your own husbands, that even if some do not obey the word, they, without a word, may be won by the **conduct** of their wives, 2 when they observe your chaste conduct accompanied by **fear**.
- E. 1 Peter 3:16 having a good conscience, that when they defame you as evildoers, those who revile your good **conduct** in Christ may be ashamed.

CONCLUSION

To be an example in conduct,  
Consider the concept as related to Jesus Christ,  
Live as obedient children of God, and  
Look forward to what God will do through your example

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Dillon - Call to Worship and Opening Prayer - Psalm 98:1

Jeremiah - Scripture Reading - Psalm 98:2-8

~~Thad~~ Jeff - Congregational Prayer

Benediction - Psalm 98:9

Haven - Prelude "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel"

Rita - Trinity 205 "Christ the Lord Is Risen Today"

Rita - Trinity 15 "Come, Let Us Sing Unto the Lord"

Rita - Trinity 689 "One Day"

2 Corinthians 5:10 For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, that each one may receive the things done in the body, according to what he has done, whether good or bad.

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- I. In Conduct/Conversation - Eph 4:21-24 if indeed you have heard Him and have been taught by Him, as the truth is in Jesus: that you put off, concerning your former **conduct**, the old man which grows corrupt according to the deceitful lusts, and be renewed in the spirit of your mind, and that you put on the new man which was created according to God, in true righteousness and holiness.
- II. Not the filthy conduct of the wicked (2 Pe 2:7)
  - A. 2 Peter 2:6-8 and turning the cities of Sodom and Gomorrah into ashes, condemned them to destruction, making them an example to those who afterward would live ungodly; 7 and delivered righteous Lot, who was oppressed by the **filthy conduct** of the wicked 8 (for that righteous man, dwelling among them, tormented his righteous soul from day to day by seeing and hearing their lawless deeds)--
  - B. filthy conduct; GEN uncleanly; ESV sensual
  - C. lawless deeds; GEN, KJV unlawful
  - D.
- III. Not the useless things you learned from the world (1 Pe 1:18)
- IV. Abstain from fleshly lusts which war against the soul, having your conduct honest/honorable not only in the church, but before unbelievers, also (1 Pe 2:11-12)

- V. Remembering that the present world will be burned up on the day of God, looking forward to His promise of a new heavens and a new earth in which righteousness dwells, be diligent to have your conduct be holy, without spot and blameless (2 Peter 3:11-14)