

Christ Our Example

No. 96

Introduction.

- I. There is a **story of a Greek slave girl** who lived in the streets of Athens. Her clothing was untidy; her face and hands were dirty; her hair tousled. One day she found a beautiful statue of a Greek woman. She thought, "If I could only be beautiful like that." She began to notice the details of the statue and from day to day made improvements in her personal appearance, until finally, a Greek nobleman, looking for a perfect specimen of Greek womanhood found and married the slave girl. She had become like her ideal.
- II. Most of us, as this slave girl, have someone we are trying to idolize in our lives. We sometimes idolize famous athletes, entertainers, men or women or a particular profession.
- III. Tonight, I would like to challenge you to idolize Christ.
 - A. Make Christ the Model of our life as Paul did in his life. (1 Cor.11:1). **Explain**
 - B. Christ had left us a wonderful, a marvelous example to follow.

I. **Love** - He has left us an example of love.

- A. **Love was not an empty word with Jesus.** Throughout the life of Jesus He manifested love for others. He healed the sick and encouraged the down-hearted. He fed the hungry. He taught the lost the will of God. The greatest manifestation of His life was His death on the cross. (Jn. 15:13).
- B. The Christian must manifest love for others in his life. (Matt. 22:39; Jn. 15:12).

1. Paul gives us a description of the love Christians must possess in 1 Corinthians 13:4-7.

1CO 13:4 Love is patient, love is kind, and is not jealous; love does not brag and is not arrogant, 1CO 13:5 does not act unbecomingly; it does not seek its own, is not provoked, does not take into account a wrong suffered, 1CO 13:6 does not rejoice in unrighteousness, but rejoices with the truth; 1CO 13:7 bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things.

2. Earlier in this chapter Paul said those without love are a noisy gong or clanging cymbal. (1 Cor. 13:1). Unless we have love for others we too are but an empty, useless noise in the world. (Col. 3:2).

II. **Obedience** - Christ has left us an example of obedience.

- A. Even though He was the Son of God, He submitted to the authority of His parents. (Lk.2:51).
- B. He was also submissive to the authority of the Father. (Jn. 5:30).
- C. Jesus emphasized that we must be obedient.

1. Matthew 7:21-23; 12:46-50.

MAT 12:46 While He was still speaking to the multitudes, behold, His mother and brothers were standing outside, seeking to speak to Him. 47 And someone said to Him, "Behold, Your mother and Your brothers are standing outside seeking to speak to You." 48 But He answered the one who was telling Him and said, "Who is My mother and who are My brothers?" 49 And stretching out His hand toward His disciples, He said, "Behold, My mother and My brothers! 50 "For whoever does the will of My Father who is in heaven, he is My brother and sister and mother."

2. **Do we want to be a part of the family of Jesus?** If so, we must do the will of God.

3. Lk. 6:46; Jn. 15:14.

III. **Humility** - Christ has left us an example of humility.

A. One of the most moving scenes in the Bible is found in John the 13th chapter. (Jn. 13:1-16).

B. Jesus taught us to be humble. (Matt. 5:3; 18:3, 4; 20:27, 28; Lk. 14:11).

IV. **Overcoming Temptation** - Christ has left us an example of overcoming temptation.

A. Some think Jesus was not really tempted.

1. I suppose some think this because He did not sin. (1 Pet. 2:22).

2. Some may think this because He was the Son of God, but nothing could be further from the truth.

3. Christ was tempted from the cradle to the grave. (Heb. 4:15). See 1 Jn. 2:16; Lk. 4:13.

B. Christ was able to overcome temptation by resisting Satan.

C. **We too can overcome it by the help of God.** (1 Cor. 10:13; Jas. 4:7, 8).

V. **Prayer** - Christ was an example of prayer.

A. Jesus was a man of prayer. He spent many hours praying to the Father.

B. The followers of Christ are to be praying people.

1. It is a shame that many Christians spend so little time in prayer. I told about 25% of the members of the body of Christ seldom, if ever, pray. It seems that many do not have faith in prayer.

2. Some time ago I read of a **little girl who wrote a prayer to God.** The little girl, who did not know her mother was watching, folded the note carefully and climbed the stairs to the attic. When she arrived in the attic, she stood on the top of an old trunk and placed the note firmly against the

ceiling. Later in the day the curious mother climbed to the attic and secured the note. It said, "Dear God, my sister is sick. I love her very much. Please, God, help her to get well." When questioned about the note the little girl told her mother, "Mommy, I knew that if I could climb up to the attic and get just as near God as I could, God would do the rest."

3. Brethren, we need this childlike faith in prayer. (Matt. 7:7-11).

VI. **Forgiveness** - Christ has left us an example of forgiveness. (Lk. 23:34; Eph. 4:32).

A. Forgiveness is a characteristic lacking in too many Christians. Too many Christians expect God to forgive them, but they are unwilling to forgive others.

B. This unforgiving spirit will keep many people out of heaven. (Matt. 6:15; Jas. 2:13).

VII. **Gratitude** - Christ has left us an example of gratitude.

A. Jesus never failed to express His gratitude for the blessings of God. He did not grumble and complain about what He did not have in life.

B. We should also always give thanks for what we possess and not complain about what we do not have. If we will look around us we will be ashamed for our complaining.

1. We should be ashamed for complaining because we do not always have new clothes to wear while others are wearing rags. We should be ashamed for complaining about the food we eat when others are dying of starvation. We should be ashamed for complaining about the fact we do not have a new home when many have little or no shelter.

2. **Shortly after World War II a most pathetic story about a little girl in Germany** appeared in "Time" magazine. An American school teacher asked her class to write a them on the happiest day of their life. One little 9 year old girl wrote: "The happiest day in my life was November 14, 1946. On that day my brother died and I got his warm overcoat."

3. When situations like this still exist in the world we need to get down on our knees and thank God for what we have, lest it be taken away from us.

Conclusion.

I. Yes, **Christ has left us a marvelous example.** May we always seek to imitate Him every day in every way. Imitators of Christ will be citizens of heaven. Imitators of Christ will enjoy God's presence and blessings forever.

II. As we close this lesson, we invite you to become a follower of Christ. Come and confess your faith in Christ and then be baptized into Christ for the remission of sins. Let Jesus become not only your Model, but also you Savior! Come as we sing.

