

“Actions Speak Louder Than Words”

1 John 1:6-7

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Complete this sentence...

- Do as I say...(not as I do)
- Talk is...(cheap)

*“Few things are harder to put up with
than the annoyance of a good example.”*

Mark Twain

Key Verse:

1 John 1:6-7 ⁶ If we say that we have fellowship with Him, and walk in darkness, we lie and do not practice the truth. ⁷ But if we walk in the light as He is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus Christ His Son cleanses us from all sin.”

- A person that SAYS, “I am a Christian” but WALKS in darkness is a liar and doesn’t practice truth.
- **1 John 2:9-11** ⁹ He who says he is in the light, and hates his brother, is in darkness until now. ¹⁰ He who loves his brother abides in the light, and there is no cause for stumbling in him. ¹¹ But he who hates his brother is in darkness and walks in darkness, and does not know where he is going, because the darkness has blinded his eyes.”
 - Someone that SAYS, “I am a Christian” and HATES other Christians is walking in darkness.
- **James 1:22** ²² But be doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves. ²³ For if anyone is a hearer of the word and not a doer, he is like a man observing his natural face in a mirror; ²⁴ for he observes himself, goes away, and immediately forgets what kind of man he was. ²⁵ But he who looks into the perfect law of liberty and continues *in it*, and is not a forgetful hearer but a doer of the work, this one will be blessed in what he does.”
 - Someone that HEARS bible studies but doesn’t DO bible studies is self-deceived.
 - The person that reads the bible and does the bible is blessed in what they DO!

The False Testimony

Titus 1:10-16 ¹⁰ For there are many insubordinate, both idle talkers and deceivers, especially those of the circumcision, ¹¹ whose mouths must be stopped, who subvert whole households, teaching things which they ought not, for the sake of dishonest gain. ¹² One of them, a prophet of their own, said, “Cretans *are* always liars, evil beasts, lazy gluttons.” ¹³ This testimony is true. Therefore rebuke them sharply, that they may be sound in the faith, ¹⁴ not giving heed to Jewish fables and commandments of men who turn from the truth. ¹⁵ To the pure all things are pure, but to those who are defiled and unbelieving nothing is pure; but even their mind and conscience are defiled. ¹⁶ *They profess to know God, but in works they deny Him*, being abominable, disobedient, and disqualified for every good work.” (Emphasis mine)

- Look first at vs. 16 and notice that they PROFESS they know God, but their actions deny their claims!
 - The actions they display are;
 - Liars
 - Evil beasts (not only do they act like animals, they prey on others)
 - Lazy gluttons (they lived it up at the expense of their followers)
 - Abominable (detestable)
 - Disobedient (They cannot and will not be persuaded to change)
 - Disqualified
 - This was the ultimate outcome of their behavior.
 - **1 Corinthians 9:27** “But I discipline my body and bring *it* into subjection, lest, when I have preached to others, I myself should become disqualified.”
- Peter and Jude on apostates
 - **2 Peter 2:17** “These are wells without water, clouds carried by a tempest, for whom is reserved the blackness of darkness forever.”
 - **2 Peter 2:18** “For when they speak great swelling *words* of emptiness, they allure through the lusts of the flesh, through lewdness, the ones who have actually escaped from those who live in error.”
 - **Jude 11** “*They are* clouds without water, carried about by the winds; late autumn trees without fruit, twice dead, pulled up by the roots...”
 - **Jude 16-19** ¹⁶ These are grumblers, complainers, walking according to their own lusts; and they mouth great swelling *words*, flattering people to gain advantage. ¹⁷ But you, beloved, remember the words which were spoken before by the apostles of our Lord Jesus Christ: ¹⁸ how they told you that there would be mockers in the last time who would walk according to their own ungodly lusts. ¹⁹ These are sensual persons, who cause divisions, not having the Spirit.”

The Example

Philippians 3:17 “Brethren, join in following my example, and note those who so walk, as you have us for a pattern.”

- *Example* – to imitate, imitator
 - **1 Corinthians 4:15-16** “¹⁵ For though you might have ten thousand instructors in Christ, yet *you do not have* many fathers; for in Christ Jesus I have begotten you through the gospel. ¹⁶ Therefore I urge you, imitate me.”
 - **1 Corinthians 11:1** “Imitate me, just as I also *imitate* Christ.”
 - **Philippians 4:9** “The things which you learned and received and heard and saw in me, these do, and the God of peace will be with you.”
- *Pattern* – to impress made by the blow, what is stamped
 - **Titus 2:6-8** “⁶ Likewise, exhort the young men to be sober-minded, ⁷ in all things showing yourself *to be* a pattern of good works; in doctrine *showing* integrity, reverence, incorruptibility, ⁸ sound speech that cannot be condemned, that one who is an opponent may be ashamed, having nothing evil to say of you.”
 - **John 13:12-17** “¹² So when He had washed their feet, taken His garments, and sat down again, He said to them, “**Do you know what I have done to you?** ¹³ **You call Me Teacher and Lord, and you say well, for so I am.** ¹⁴ **If I then, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also ought to wash one another’s feet.** ¹⁵ **For I have given you an example, that you should do as I have done to you.** ¹⁶ **Most assuredly, I say to you, a servant is not greater than his master; nor is he who is sent greater than he who sent him.** ¹⁷ **If you know these things, blessed are you if you do them.**”

The True Testimony

1 Thessalonians 1:2-9 “² We give thanks to God always for you all, making mention of you in our prayers, ³ remembering without ceasing your work of faith, labor of love, and patience of hope in our Lord Jesus Christ in the sight of our God and Father, ⁴ knowing, beloved brethren, your election by God. ⁵ For our gospel did not come to you in word only, but also in power, and in the Holy Spirit and in much assurance, as you know what kind of men we were among you for your sake. ⁶ And you became followers of us and of the Lord, having received the word in much affliction, with joy of the Holy Spirit, ⁷ so that you became examples to all in Macedonia and Achaia who believe. ⁸ For from you the word of the Lord has sounded forth, not only in Macedonia and Achaia, but also in every place. Your faith toward God has gone out, so that we do not need to say anything. ⁹ For they themselves declare concerning us what manner of entry we had to you, and how you turned to God from idols to serve the living and true God,...

- **Work of Faith –**
 - **James 2:18-21** ¹⁸ “But someone will say, “You have faith, and I have works.” Show me your faith without your works, and I will show you my faith by my works. ¹⁹ You believe that there is one God. You do well. Even the demons believe—and tremble! ²⁰ But do you want to know, O foolish man, that faith without works is dead?”
 - **James 2:26** “For as the body without the spirit is dead, so faith without works is dead also.”
- **Labor of Love**
 - The *Greek* implies *toil*, or *troublesome labor*, weariness as though one had been beaten, physical tiredness induced by work, exertion or heat.
 - **Matthew 22:34-40** ³⁴ “But when the Pharisees heard that He had silenced the Sadducees, they gathered together. ³⁵ Then one of them, a lawyer, asked *Him a question*, testing Him, and saying, ³⁶ “Teacher, which *is* the great commandment in the law?” ³⁷ Jesus said to him, “ ‘*You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind.*’ ³⁸ This is *the first and great commandment.* ³⁹ And *the second is like it: ‘You shall love your neighbor as yourself.’* ⁴⁰ On these two commandments hang all the Law and the Prophets.”
 - **Deuteronomy 6:4-9** ⁴ “Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God, the LORD is one! ⁵ You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your strength. ⁶ “And these words which I command you today shall be in your heart. ⁷ You shall teach them diligently to your children, and shall talk of them when you sit in your house, when you walk by the way, when you lie down, and when you rise up. ⁸ You shall bind them as a sign on your hand, and they shall be as frontlets between your eyes. ⁹ You shall write them on the doorposts of your house and on your gates.”
 - **Leviticus 19:17-18** ¹⁷ ‘You shall not hate your brother in your heart. You shall surely rebuke your neighbor, and not bear sin because of him. ¹⁸ You shall not take vengeance, nor bear any grudge against the children of your people, but you shall love your neighbor as yourself: I *am* the LORD.”
 - **1 Corinthians 13:4-8** ⁴ Love suffers long *and* is kind; love does not envy; love does not parade itself, is not puffed up; ⁵ does not behave rudely, does not seek its own, is not provoked, thinks no evil; ⁶ does not rejoice in iniquity, but rejoices in the truth; ⁷ bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things. ⁸ Love never fails.”
- Their faith had gone out into the world, not their words. They were examples of the faith, love and hope!

Oh Christian, is your faith, love and hope affecting those around you? Are others touched by your life in a way that they would say you are an example of what a Christian should be? If not, why? If so, keep it up!

“A man's life is always more forcible than his speech. When men take stock of him, they reckon his deeds as dollars and his words as pennies. If his life and doctrine disagree the mass of onlookers accept his practice and reject his preaching.”

C.H. Spurgeon.