



Earning Their Trust

"Stick with me, friends. Keep track of those you see running this same course, headed for this same goal. There are many out there taking other paths, choosing other goals, and trying to get you to go along with them. I've warned you of them many times; sadly, I'm having to do it again. All they want is easy street. They hate Christ's Cross. But easy street is a dead-end street." ~Paul, Philippians 3:17-19, msg.

Do You Minister By Your Good Example, Earning Their Trust? What's up with that? Christian, you know how there is a time to witness and to minister using clean language, but to neglect the [example-factor](#) with that would mean that we quickly short-circuit even the most eloquent of verbal or written messages. Both are way important!

There is a time to witness without words ..and then later when the time is right to follow up on that with tactful words. Earning the right to be heard can not be overemphasized!

Today there seems to be a witnessing-leader-vacuum. Yes, there seems to be a lack of good example-leaders like never before. And those in the world around us really want to be influenced by someone that they can trust, even if they tell you that they do not want to be witnessed to by even the most trustworthy "Jesus Freak."

When you get the time, I challenge you to do a thorough study on the lives of those who were both good and bad examples in the Bible. Pray about what you discover. This is very fascinating and will edify your inner person.

The Apostle Paul spoke of exemplifying it when he said, ***"We showed you how to pull your weight when we were with you, so get on with it. We didn't sit around on our hands expecting others to take care of us. In fact, we worked our fingers to the bone, up half the night moonlighting so you wouldn't be burdened with taking care of us. And it wasn't because we didn't have a right to your support; we did. We simply wanted to provide an example of diligence, hoping it would prove contagious"*** (See 2 Thess. 3:6-9, mess).

He told Timothy, ***"Teach believers with your life: by word, by demeanor, by love, by faith, by integrity. Stay at your post reading Scripture, giving counsel, teaching. And that special gift of ministry you were given when the leaders of the church laid hands on you and prayed—keep that dusted off and in use"*** (See 1 Timothy 4:11-14).

If you really desire to positively impact other people with biblical influence:

Model consistency of character. *Solid relationships of trust can only develop when growing people can trust you every day of the week.*

Taking responsibility for your own short-comings. *Do you call a spade a spade and apologize when you blow it? What do you do to fix the damage that you cause? How often do you go the extra mile and add value beyond merely fixing it, to compensate for*

the other person's inconvenience and grief? Do your words, attitudes and deeds match up just like a beautiful musical composition from the master artists? They can and God can help you with this.

Be honest in all your communication. *There is much less hassle involved when you tell it like it is, but when you mix truth with error things will get complicated over time, because you'll have to remember well and have to keep lying just to make our stories sync. You and your friends really won't like it when you lose credibility.*

Value accountable transparency. *If you are candid with people from the heart, putting on no airs you won't repel them. If your communication and good example come from the very core of who you are as a righteous person ..minus all deception, people will really come to appreciate that. More and more of them will want to spend time with you. And generally, people can tell after a while, especially if you admit your weaknesses and even make it right when you drop the ball. If we are like this in our relationship with the Lord first, then every moment He will give us what we need—an unction to function in every arena that He leads us into.*

Exhibit genuine authenticity. *People will be able to relate to you better. This is dealing with a pure and undefiled heart with no guile or hypocrisy mixed in. Jesus Christ was and is always real, so you can be real all of the time as well. During the sanctification process, it doesn't matter how spiritually weak, immature or strong you are.*

Exemplify deferring humility. *Proud people ultimately choose to be that way and those who are otherwise also choose. But others won't trust you if you have a superiority-complex and are ego driven. Christians are not better than others even though we are better off. Ask God for His wisdom and supernatural empowering to live a godly life and don't try to go-it all alone in your own strength. Don't view yourself as having all the answers—none of us down here do.*

Demonstrate non-preferential support of others. *Opt to be others-orientated, believing the best of them. Love all people and show em the same respect that you would want them to show your own family members. Give people the benefit of the doubt when it looks questionable. Stick with the real facts. Let them go first before you when you both arrive at the same time. Nothing develops or displays your character better than putting others before you. This kind of non-push-n-shove-your-way-through thinking indeed helps to cultivate trust and relationship.*

Keep your promises with a role-up-your-selves-n-get-it-done kind of tenacity. *Be specific and very careful with what you promise to people. Be careful with the deadlines that you give to them. You know it's much better to under promise and over deliver, than to over promise and under deliver. We are called to be people of excellence and that includes doing what we say we'll do. Can you think of a quicker way to break trust with people other than by failing to keep your commitments to them? I can't. God keeps all His promises and His prophecies come to pass with 100% precision all of the time! We can trust Him all year long!*

Now you could probably add to that list for building trust, but these are some areas that we can start focusing on. Of course there was no greater example-witness in all of history than our Lord. The Bible says of Him, **"Then Jesus arrived from Nazareth, anointed by God with the Holy Spirit, ready for action. He went through the country helping people and healing everyone**

who was beaten down by the Devil. He was able to do all this because God was with Him"
(See Acts 10:38).

Did Christ's obedience to the Father make things go real easy and pleasant for Him? Well, not exactly and opposition will also come your way when you are being a good example. Your godly life will literally convict the hearts of those who are being bad examples around you. The Bible says, ***"Then the Jews took up stones again to stone Him. Jesus answered them, 'Many good works I have shown you from My Father. For which of those works do you stone Me?'"*** (Jn. 10:32, nkjv).

The Apostle Peter told other believers this: ***"Here's my concern: that you care for God's flock with all the diligence of a shepherd. Not because you have to, but because you want to please God. Not calculating what you can get out of it, but acting spontaneously. Not bossily telling others what to do, but tenderly showing them the way"*** (1 Pet. 5:1-3, msg).

Do you hate every crooked way and doin' your peeps wrong? Sure you do. You were designed to em right, to be full of insight, and to be a fisher of people exemplifying the life of the ultimate Fisher. Listen, He never abused others.. ***"Among leaders who lack insight, abuse abounds, but for one who hates corruption, the future is bright"*** (Prov. 28:16, msg).

Please don't be close friends with those who are bad examples, especially if they call themselves Christians. You and I could easily learn their ways. We can't judge their hearts or motives and sometimes things aren't always as they appear. But if you hang out with them too much, you will sadly become like them in wrong doing. Good warning for us all. Always remember how Amon was influenced.. ***"In God's opinion he [Amon] lived an evil life, just like his father Manasseh. He followed in the footsteps of his father, serving and worshiping the same foul gods his father had served. He totally deserted the God of his ancestors; he did not live God's way"*** (See 2 Kings 21:19-22).

It takes concentration, real love, wholehearted commitment and many moons passin' by to earn the trust of those you long to help—ya know, to build that bridge that you want to get the Gospel Message across so they'll trust Jesus—but it only takes one day to thrash that bridge of trust to smithereens. It's take you a long time to rebuild it too.

But take heart if you have been untrustworthy at times. Our Lord is a God of second chances. Just turn from your bad example stuff and [receive Him on the inside](#) right now.

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