

Guidelines For A Good Influence

1 Tim. 4:12

Introduction:

- A. Timothy was not to merely tell believers how to live, he was to show them—"be an example".
 - 1. The positive power of a good example. (cf. 1 Pet. 3:1,2).
 - 2. The negative power of a bad example. (cf. 1 Cor. 8:9-13).
- B. Timothy was told to be an example in six areas of his life.

Discussion:

I. "In Word"

- A. Doctrinal speech. (1 Tim. 1:3; Tit. 2:1; Rom. 16:17).
- B. General speech. (Matt. 12:36,37).
 - 1. Should keep it truthful. (Eph. 4:25).
 - 2. Should keep it wholesome. (Eph. 4:29).
 - 3. Should keep it measured. (Jas. 1:19, 26).

II. "In Conduct"

- A. Conduct that rises above what is common place in this world. (Phil. 2:15; Matt. 5:14-16).
- B. Conduct that disarms the opposition. (Tit. 2:7,8; 1 Tim. 5:14).

III. "In Love"

- A. Love that is universal. (Matt. 22:36-40).
 - 1. Family
 - 2. Brethren. (Heb. 13:1).
 - 3. Enemies. (Matt. 5:43-45).
- B. Love that is genuine. (Rom. 12:9; 1 Pet. 1:22).
 - 1. Genuine love seeks best interest of its object.
 - 2. Genuine love sometimes chastens. (Heb. 12:6).

IV. "In Spirit"

- A. Need the right disposition to go with the right position.
- B. Need to have the "spirit of Christ"—but we need to understand it.
 - 1. Gentle and compassionate. (cf. Gal. 6:1).
 - 2. Tender and kind.
 - 3. Firm and sharp at times. (cf. Tit. 1:12,13)

V. "In Faith"

- A. Not a blind faith. (Heb. 11:1; Rom. 10:17).
- B. Not a dead faith. (Jas. 2:26).
- C. Not a weak faith—but strong enough to overcome:
 - 1. Fear. (Mt. 8:26).
 - 2. Anxiety. (Mt. 6:30).
 - 3. Doubt. (Mt. 14:31).
 - 4. Misunderstanding. (Mt. 16:6-8, 11-12).

VI. "In Purity"

- A. Purity before peace. (Jas. 3:17).
- B. Purity in all areas of our lives.
 - 1. In doctrine. (Tit. 2:7).
 - 2. In morals. (2 Tim. 2:22; 1 Cor. 6:15-20).

Conclusion:

- A. Let us be molds, patterns, examples, pace-setters for others to follow.
- B. Let us begin getting our lives in order.

