

“Paul’s success was not based on his ministry methodology. The apostle’s successful ministry flowed from his devotion to truth, spiritual character, commitment to serving God, and the resultant powerful example his life set for others. There was no credibility gap between the truth he proclaimed and the way he lived.”

## We need godly examples to follow:

**Jn 13:15** For I have given you an example, that you should do as I have done to you.

**1 Cor 4:16** Therefore I urge you, imitate me.

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

**1 Thess 1:6** And you became followers of us and of the Lord, having received the word in much affliction, with joy of the Holy Spirit,

**Acts 20:17-19,22-24** From Miletus he sent to Ephesus and called for the elders of the church. <sup>18</sup> And when they had come to him, he said to them: "You know, from the first day that I came to Asia, in what manner I always lived among you, <sup>19</sup> serving the Lord with all humility, with many tears and trials which happened to me by the plotting of the Jews; ... <sup>22</sup> And see, now I go bound in the spirit to Jerusalem, not knowing the things that will happen to me there, <sup>23</sup> except that the Holy Spirit testifies in every city, saying that chains and tribulations await me. <sup>24</sup> But none of these things move me; nor do I count my life dear to myself, so that I may finish my race with joy, and the ministry which I received from the Lord Jesus, to testify to the gospel of the grace of God.

# 1. Humble service

## We serve God – and only God:

**Mt 4:10** Then Jesus said to him, “Away with you, Satan! For it is written, ‘You shall worship the Lord your God, and Him only you shall serve.’”

**Eph 6:5-7** Bondservants, be obedient to those who are your masters according to the flesh, with fear and trembling, in sincerity of heart, as to Christ; <sup>6</sup> not with eye service, as men-pleasers, but as bondservants of Christ, doing the will of God from the heart, <sup>7</sup> with goodwill doing service, as to the Lord, and not to men,

**Col 3:24** knowing that from the Lord you will receive the reward of the inheritance; for you serve the Lord Christ.

**Ps 147:6** Lord lifts up the humble; He casts the wicked down to the ground.

**1 Pet 5:5-6** be clothed with humility, for “God resists the proud, But gives grace to the humble.” <sup>6</sup> Therefore humble yourselves under the mighty hand of God, that He may exalt you in due time,

**Mt 10:24** “A disciple is not above his teacher, nor a servant above his master.

**Phil 2:5,8** Let this mind be in you which was also in Christ Jesus, ... <sup>8</sup> And being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself and became obedient to the point of death, even the death of the cross.

**1 Cor 3:5** Who then is Paul, and who is Apollos, but ministers through whom you believed, as the Lord gave to each one?

**1 Cor 15:9** For I am the least of the apostles, who am not worthy to be called an apostle, because I persecuted the church of God.

**Eph 3:8** To me, who am less than the least of all the saints,

## 2. Godly sorrow

**Ps 126:6** He who continually goes forth weeping, bearing seed for sowing, shall doubtless come again with rejoicing, bringing his sheaves with him.

**2 Cor 2:4** For out of much affliction and anguish of heart I wrote to you, with many tears, not that you should be grieved, but that you might know the love which I have so abundantly for you.

**Phil 3:18** For many walk, of whom I have told you often, and now tell you even weeping, that they are the enemies of the cross of Christ:

“Some judge the success of a servant of God by how large or widespread his ministry is, how many degrees he has, or how much publicity he receives. But the true measure of a servant of God is whether he focuses solely on pleasing God, which gives him the willingness to serve with humility and suffer opposition from those hostile to the truth.” John MacArthur

### 3. Personal sacrifice

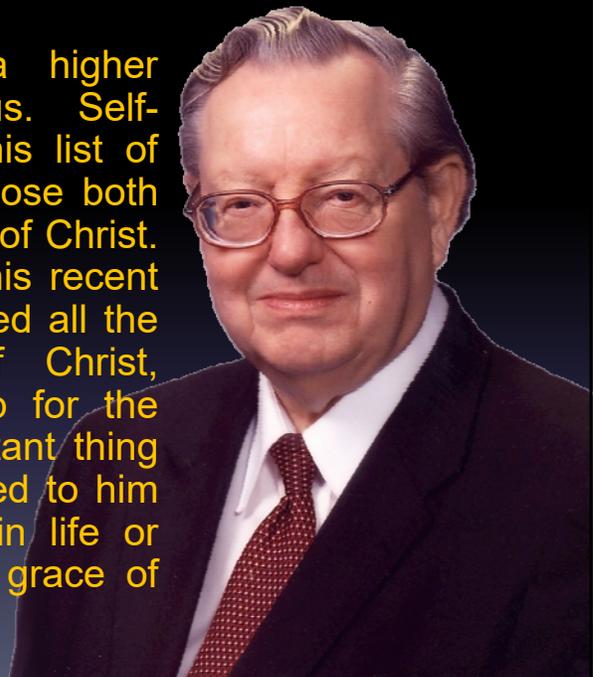
**Acts 21:13** For I am ready not only to be bound, but also to die at Jerusalem for the name of the Lord Jesus.”

**1 Pet 2:21** For to this you were called, because Christ also suffered for us, leaving us an example, that you should follow His steps:

**2 Tim 3:12** Yes, and all who desire to live godly in Christ Jesus will suffer persecution.

**2 Tim 4:6-7** For I am already being poured out as a drink offering, and the time of my departure is at hand. <sup>7</sup> I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith.

“Paul looked at life from a higher perspective than most of us. Self-preservation was not high on his list of priorities. He was prepared to lose both liberty and life itself in the cause of Christ. As he had told the Romans in his recent letter, he considered himself ‘killed all the day long’ for the cause of Christ, accounting himself ‘as a sheep for the slaughter’ (Rom 8:36). The important thing was to fulfill the ministry entrusted to him and to bear universal witness in life or death to the good news of the grace of God.” John Phillips



**Mt 25:21** His lord said to him, 'Well done, good and faithful servant; you were faithful over a few things, I will make you ruler over many things. Enter into the joy of your lord.'