

Ordinary Examples for Extraordinary Times
Philippians 2:19-30

Timothy; 2:19-24

Epaphroditus; 2:25-30

The Principle of Imitation:

*You will tend to become like
whoever you train yourself to admire*

Who do you want to be like?

***He who walks with wise men will be wise,
But the companion of fools will be destroyed.***

Proverbs 13:20

“He who walks with wise men will be wise...”

- **Galatians 4:19** *My little children, for whom I labor in birth again until **Christ is formed in you***
- **Luke 6:40** *“A disciple is not above his teacher, but **everyone who is perfectly trained will be like his teacher.***
- **1 Corinthians 4:16** *Therefore I urge you, **imitate me.***
- **Philippians 3:17** *Brethren, **join in following my example**, and note those who so walk, **as you have us for a pattern.***
- **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.*
- **1 Thessalonians 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,*
- **2 Thessalonians 3:9** *not because we do not have authority, but to make ourselves **an example** of how you should follow us.*
- **1 Timothy 1:16** *However, for this reason I obtained mercy, that **in me first** Jesus Christ might show all longsuffering, **as a pattern** to those who are going to believe on Him for everlasting life.*
- **1 Timothy 4:12** *Let no one despise your youth, but **be an example** to the believers in word, in conduct, in love, in spirit, in faith, in purity.*
- **Hebrews 13:7** *Remember those who rule over you, who have spoken the word of God to you, **whose faith follow**, considering the outcome of their conduct.*
- **1 Peter 5:3** *nor as being lords over those entrusted to you, but **being examples to the flock;***
- **Acts 20:28-38** *This is why older, godly Christians are so important in a Christian fellowship.*

Here is how the process works:

1. the behavior is **modeled**
2. the behavior is **imitated**
3. I **accept by faith** that the behavior is **God's will**
4. I trust the enabling **power of the Holy Spirit**
5. I **repeat** the behavior
6. I continue over a **prolonged period** of time
7. I am among brothers and sisters who **support the behavior**
8. Over a period of time **it becomes the behavior I deeply desire.** (affections)

“...A companion of fools will be destroyed.”

- **Proverbs 12:26** *The righteous should choose his friends carefully, For the way of the wicked leads them astray.*
- **Proverbs 22:24** *Make no friendship with an angry man, And with a furious man do not go*
- **1 Corinthians 5:11** *But now I have written to you not to keep company with anyone named a brother, who is sexually immoral, or covetous, or an idolater, or a reviler, or a drunkard, or an extortioner—not even to eat with such a person.*
- **1 Corinthians 15:33** *Do not be deceived: “Evil company corrupts good habits.”*

**You don't need many friends.
What kind of friends do you need?**

1. You need friends who fear God and obey Him. **Psalm 119:63** *I am a companion of all who fear You, And of those who keep Your precepts.*

2. You need friends who refresh you in the things of the Lord. **2 Timothy 1:16** *The Lord grant mercy to the household of Onesiphorus, for he often refreshed me, and was not ashamed of my chain;*

3. You need friends who will stimulate you to love and good works. **Hebrews 10:24** *And let us consider one another in order to stir up love and good works...*

Resources on Biography

[Good Biographies Here](#)

[Stories of Great Christians--Moody Radio](#)

[John Piper's Biographical Messages](#)

This is "gold"

Here is one of my favorites:

[You Will Be Eaten By Cannibals](#)

[Another link to John Piper's Biographies](#)

[Here is a large list of Christian Biographies](#)