

Who is your hero?

I like to read the messages people have on their T-shirts. Many here don't understand the meaning of the message but of course they do know the pictures.

In Ambon some Moslem militants are wearing T-shirts with a large photograph of Moslem terrorist Osama Bin Laden on the front. He is apparently their example and hero. Others wear T-shirts with Sukarno's picture and many wear T-shirts with pictures of their political candidates such as Megawati, Amin Rais, Susilo Bambang Yudiono, Wiranto and others. Even Michael Jackson is a hero to many.

In 2 Kings 14:3 we read that king Amaziah followed the example of his father king Joash **in everything he did. His father was his hero!**

The Apostle Paul made a great announcement and proclamation in 1 Corinthians 2:2, **"For I resolved to know nothing while I was with you except Jesus Christ and Him crucified."** Jesus Christ was his hero!

As believers we are instructed to follow the example of the Lord Jesus Christ in all we do and say.

1 Corinthians 11:1,

"Follow my example, as I follow the example of Christ."

Prior to this statement in 1 Corinthians 10:31, the Apostle said: **"So whether you eat or drink or whatever you do, do it all for the glory of God. Do not cause anyone to stumble, whether Jews, Greeks or the church of God – even as I try to please everybody in every way. For I am not seeking my own good but the good of many, so that they may be saved."**

1 Peter 2:21,

"To this you were called, because Christ suffered for you leaving you an example, that you should follow in His steps. He committed no sin and no deceit was found in His mouth."

How is it possible for us to follow His example and commit no sin? I always hear the statement that the believers cannot live without sin but that some day the believers will be perfect and live without sin but that is in heaven, not on this earth. So what is actually the meaning of 1 Peter 2:21? Did Christ leave us an example of suffering only? Not an example of living without sin? In no way! God says, “Be holy for I am holy”.

Let’s look at a few examples of the Lord Jesus. In John 5:19 the Lord Jesus explains to His disciples that He can do nothing by Himself. Jesus can only do what He sees His Father doing, for whatever the Father does the Son also does. In verse 30 Jesus further explains that He seeks not to please Himself but God Who sent Him.

So we see that Jesus Christ was totally depending on His Father for all He did and said. He said that He simply could do nothing by Himself.

From these verses we have already touched on a few examples of Christ, which we must follow:

Firstly, not to please one self but our Father in heaven.

Secondly, totally depend on the Father and not on our own strength.

Thirdly, to be willing and suffer for our faith in Jesus Christ.

When we study the life of the Lord Jesus Christ there are many more examples we need to follow.

- **Jesus was always busy** going from village to village teaching the Word of God.
- **Jesus was never in a rush.** He had all the time for people who came to Him for help. It is a bad habit and can be offensive when we keep looking at our watch when talking to people.
- **Jesus was never late,** always on time. Once his friends Mary and Martha in fact told Him that if He had been on time their brother Lazarus would not have died! But Jesus was not 4 days late as they thought but He wanted them to see the glory of God in the resurrection of Lazarus from the dead.

- **Jesus was never negative** when counseling people neither was He offensive. He never embarrassed people including corrupters such as Zacheus. His purpose was to change people not to embarrass them.
- **Jesus was always available** day and night. No hour was too late to visit the Lord. Nicodemus came at midnight. The Lord received him and he became a believer. And it was Nicodemus who made the arrangements for the funeral of the Lord Jesus.
- **Jesus paid special attention to the little children.** He loved them and hugged them and he made the faith of the small children an illustration in His sermons.
- **No illness or disease was offensive to the Lord.** He associated with lepers. He touched the ill and poor and loved all equally.
- **Jesus practiced what he preached.** He had no double standards.
- He associated with the poorest of the poor, with the highly educated religious leaders and even with the Roman colonial soldiers and officers. He was totally at ease with all castes and creeds.
- **He was completely loyal and obedient to the government** and paid His taxes with no complaint.
- **He was not afraid to walk great distances** to share the Good News of the Gospel.
- **He made no demands on others** and took no advantage of others. He never manipulated people.
- **He always spoke the truth even if it did hurt!** He never covered up wrongs and came right to the point when dealing with sin.
- **He took time to fully answer questions** and His answers were completely adapted to local customs and culture.
- **Even in His greatest suffering and in His hour of death, He was still serving and helping others.**
- **He lived a very simple lifestyle** and gathered no 'treasures' here on

earth.

- **He never ever grumbled or complained** about anything to any one.
- **He totally denied self**, had no ambition or selfish interest.
- **His goal in life was to seek and save the lost.** Luke 19:10
- **He was tempted in every way just as we** - yet He was without sin. Hebrews 4:15

Another question to consider is what would Jesus do if He were living among us today. The fact is that He is living here among us. In Matthew 18:20, Jesus said: “where two or three come together in my name, there am I with them”. If you and I have received Jesus Christ as personal Savior and Lord, then He is living His life in and through us individually. In Philippians 1:21 Paul said, “for me to live is Christ”. His Holy Spirit is here among us and His Holy Spirit is also living in every believer in the Lord Jesus Christ.

Yet what do you think Jesus would do if He was actually physically present with us now? We know that He never changes! He would do exactly what He did 2000 years ago. His life would be to please His heavenly Father and His goal would also be the same, as he explained in Luke 19:10, “The Son of Man came to seek and save what was lost.”

He would be going everywhere to preach the Gospel. To the towns, cities and villages preaching repentance and forgiveness of sins and healing the sick, comforting the needy, neglected and rejected. He would also be raising the dead and casting out evil spirits. He would be our example in fulfilling the Great Commission as explained in Mathew 28:19-20!

He would be using the latest equipment available, placing it in an ultra modern studio with a worldwide network using the most powerful satellites. He would be involved in training pastors and evangelists, who would go into every nation preaching the Gospel and starting churches, just like He did in the first Century.

He wants to do it now through you and me. As a true believer in the Lord Jesus Christ we can only respond with “Here am I Lord, use me”. We may be His channel for His life to be manifested in and through us.

“An instrument for noble purposes, made holy, useful to the Master and prepped to do any good work” 2 Timothy 2:21. Based on this verse the song writer , Mary E. Maxwell wrote the following hymn in the year 1900:

How I praise Thee precious Savior,
That Thy love laid hold of me;
Thou hast saved and cleansed and filled me,
That I might Thy channel be.

Channels only blessed Master, But with all Thy wondrous pow’r,
Flowing thru us, Thou canst use us, Every day and ev’ry hour

Emptied that Thou shouldest fill me,
A clean vessel in Thy hand,
With no pow’r but as Thou givest,
Graciously with each command.

Witnessing Thy pow’r to save me,
Setting free from self and sin,
Thou hast boughtest to possess me,
In Thy fullness Lord come in.

Jesus fill now with Thy Spirit,
Hearts that full surrender know
That the streams of living water,
From our inner man may flow.