

The Doctrine of Examples

I. Introduction & Definition

A. Greek Vocabulary.

1. δειγμα ^{#1164}: *a thing shown, specimen, example.*
2. υπόδειγμα ^{#5262}: *example.*
3. τύπος ^{#5179}: *type, pattern.*
4. υπογραμμός ^{#5261}: *under-writing, writing copy, example.*

B. The teaching of the Word of God does not only consist of verbal instruction, but also must feature a living example (Matt. 23:1-4; Rom. 2:21-23; 2nd Tim. 3:10,11).

II. The Christian Way of Life is an imitative life of following Christ.

A. We must deny ourselves and take up our cross in order to follow Christ (Matt. 16:24).

B. Obedience to the Will of God is the orientation of our walk (Jn. 5:30; 6:38; 20:21).

C. Humble service on behalf of other believers is the hallmark of our walk (Jn. 13:15; Phil. 2:5-8).

D. Love for one another is the motivation for our walk (Jn. 13:34; Eph. 5:1,2).

E. Building up one another is the goal of our walk (Rom. 15:1-3).

F. We must endure all suffering for the Father's purpose (1st Pet. 2:21ff.; Heb. 12:2).

III. Spiritual leaders must be imitators of Christ so that their flock can imitate them (1st Cor. 11:1; 1st Thess. 1:6; Heb. 13:7).

A. The Old Testament prophets stand as an example for believers today to imitate (Jms. 5:10).

B. The New Testament apostles also stand as examples for believers today to imitate (1st Cor. 4:16; 2nd Thess. 3:7,9; Phil. 4:9).

C. Pastor-Teachers also stand as examples for believers to imitate (1st Tim. 4:12; 1st Pet. 5:3).

D. Believers stand as examples for younger believers to imitate (1st Thess. 1:7; Phil. 3:17).

IV. Sinfulness can also be imitated, and therefore negative examples are given for our warning (Deut. 18:9; Prov. 22:24,25; 3rd Jn. 11).

A. Sodom & Gomorrah are eternal examples for our warning (2nd Pet. 2:6; Jude 7).

B. The Exodus generation is a negative example for our warning (1st Cor. 10:6-11; Heb. 4:11).