

Be a Follower

1 Corinthians 11:1

In May, Esquire Magazine asked 50 famous men this question;

“What made you the man you are today?”

These men ranged from actors and musicians to political leaders and even pastors.

Most of these men stated the same things, their father or mother, other people in their line of work but a few were unique. Tyler Perry named his neighbor as the most influential person due to him being one of the only people to make time for him and actually talk with him on a day to day basis. Samuel L Jackson’s answer was also worth mentioning, when he stated he learned a lot from him mother and aunts, but the most important thing he learned was to keep quiet and listen.

Everyone is influenced by someone else. If you look at your lives you too will see that you have had people in your families, friends, and others help you along your way.

I would also venture to say that your being here in church today was greatly influenced by someone God placed in your life.

Everyone one of us here today have great influence over others we know, whether that is our family as a parent, or as a friend of a neighbor or at school, our co-workers and even the people we walk around or drive by on the roads.

How many of us have had our day made by a nice person that let us into traffic or in line at the grocery store?

Our actions have great effects on the course of a day or even a life.

Think about the butterfly effect which states that seemingly small insignificant factors can change the course of extremely large occurrences in the weather, or in our case the things we do can change a person’s life.

Our lives matter! Whether we want to admit this or not our lives have an impact that is far reaching in all directions and as Christians we hold even more influence as we are made a focal point of this world.

Romans 8:19 states that all of creation waits for God’s glory to be revealed in us!

If creation itself is watching us then all around us are aware of us as well.

When Christ was walking the earth people were drawn to him, and as he approached the demons would call out his name, they would announce him.

IF we are Christ followers that same focus is on us as we live our lives and follow Christ.

That is why people are so judgmental with Christians. They want us to reflect God's glory and not reflect our fleshly sinful nature!

I heard a quote the other day, I am not sure where it came from but it stated, "Christians have produced more atheists than evolution."

They are craving to see God and how God transforms lives. You are the street signs that should be pointing to Christ!

That is wonderful news because that is what will happen when we follow hard after Christ!

Hebrews 12:1-2

Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles. And let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us, ² fixing our eyes on Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of faith.

We are always being watched, when we deal with each other, our kids, our coworkers, our family members to see if we will reveal Christ.

The only way to be successful under such scrutiny is to keep our eyes fixed on Jesus! By being a true follower.

If we get our eyes off of Christ we will lose our direction and get lost.

*Video of Cars
Red Baron*

Many people say that they follow Christ, but what evidence do they have to show support for that statement?

When we say we are Christians and follow Christ, what evidence do we have to show others our claims are true?

Ask some kids what makes them a Christian

Jesus made many statements while on earth. He claimed to be the Son of God and he backed this up with his life's actions.

He called to 12 other men and said to them, "Follow me."

For us to be true followers of Christ we need to learn what example Christ left for us and begin to walk in that example.

Here are three things Christ exemplified that we should have revealed in our lives too.

1. Christ studied the scriptures.

In Luke 2:46 and 47 we find Jesus in the temple at 12 years old talking with the chief priests and amazing them with his knowledge and understanding.

2. Christ spent time alone in prayer.

Matthew 14:23

Christ would sneak away or even escape the crowds so he could spend time with the Father in prayer getting to know his will and listening for His voice.

3. Christ would spend time with others in fellowship.

Christ spent years living with others and going from house to house eating meals and just hanging out apart from ministry. He knew the value of letting people see him apart from the crowds.

If we call ourselves Christians our lives will show an example of what he has already exemplified to us through the scriptures.

Not just on Sunday but every day of the week.

Many however only say they are a Christian and never really follow Christ, you see them displaying different things for each situation they are in that is convenient.

We are called to be witnesses to what God had done for us and in us and we need to show ourselves faithful to the one who is faithful.

If we only act as Sunday Christians the world around us becomes confused as to what Christ really stands for.

Christ becomes illegitimate and Christianity becomes powerless. We see that permeating our society and it's our fault.

Even though we see that things look bleak, and that our society is falling down spiritually and morally it is not too late. Holy Spirit is still here empowering us to fulfill Christ's call on us.

Christ did not just give us an example to follow he gave us a mandate to lead others in this example as well.

He told us when he left to, "Go and make disciples, teaching them to obey all that I taught you." Matt 28:19-20

When it comes to leading others we have learned that the pastors will do all the work, we can just sit back and soak it all in.

We have learned to live our Christian lives vicariously through the pastor or missionaries and never get our feet wet or our hands dirty.

How many of you have listened to someone talk about eating their favorite food?

Doesn't that make you want to eat it too? Or do you just feel good about listening to them talk about it?

Paul made the right call. In **1 Corinthians 11:1** he stated **“Follow me as I follow Christ.”**

Not only listen to what the steak tasted like but here, you eat one too!

WE need to know that our service is significant and necessary if we are to show ourselves approved onto Christ.

That is why we are in such dire straits here in America. We have learned that we can just sit back, we do not matter, or we don't have anything to offer.

The truth is, you do matter and there are people out there right now that need you to be the example and leader God has called you to be.

Ephesians 2:8-10

⁸ For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God—⁹ not by works, so that no one can boast. ¹⁰ For we are God's handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.

So many of us think we cannot be disciples because we need to grow more in the Lord, or we need to know more scripture but the truth is that we are all called to serve and God has work for us to do now!

When you hear about God's word and it inspires you, you can act on it. You do not need special training only encouragement from someone more mature who is already doing it.

Luke 9:49-50

In this story a person who just heard and saw Jesus preach and cast out demons started to do it too and Jesus encouraged him to keep up the good work and for the Disciples to encourage them too.

You see Christ knows all of our excuses, he knows all our weaknesses but he still calls us to serve, why?

He has given us the Holy Spirit to lead us, teach us, and empower us to be witnesses for Him!

The promised Holy Spirit is with us, and fills us and will even give us the words to speak when we have opportunity. We are never alone when it comes to being a witness for Christ.

Some may still say that is not their calling. But everyone here is called to be Christ's witnesses. We do not have a choice in the matter.

We are being watched to see where we stand, not only by people but also the powers and principalities. We are witnesses to them as well, allowing them to rule over our families, friends, towns, cities and nations!

How many of you have ever played on a team? On most teams we have the starters, and then there are the benchwarmers or reserves.

The starters are the ones that play the most, score the most and have the most fun, where the benchwarmers are sometimes content to watch the game from the sidelines.

In the Kingdom of God there are no starters, and there are no benchwarmers!

Everyone is called to be in the game 100%

We need everyone to show themselves followers of Christ and to lead others to do the same.

If we begin today, we will not be ashamed when we see the great cloud of witnesses looking at us in Heaven.