

How to live a life worth following

1 Corinthians 4:15-17

1 Corinthians 4:15–17 (ESV)

For though you have countless guides in Christ, you do not have many fathers. For I became your father in Christ Jesus through the gospel. I urge you, then, be imitators of me. That is why I sent you Timothy, my beloved and faithful child in the Lord, to remind you of my ways in Christ, as I teach them everywhere in every church.

Having the right model

1 Corinthians 11:1 (ESV)

Be imitators of me, as I am of Christ.

1 Corinthians 10:31–33 (ESV)

So, whether you eat or drink, or whatever you do, do all to the glory of God. Give no offense to Jews or to Greeks or to the church of God, just as I try to please everyone in everything I do, not seeking my own advantage, but that of many, that they may be saved.

Philippians 2:4-5 (NIV)

Each of you should look not only to your own interests, but also to the interests of others. Your attitude should be the same as that of Christ Jesus

Who is your model?

What is your motivation?

Who are you serving? Yourself? The Job? Others?

Going in the right direction

Philippians 3:17 (ESV)

Brothers, join in imitating me, and keep your eyes on those who walk according to the example you have in us.

Philippians 3:13–14 (ESV)

Brothers, I do not consider that I have made it my own. But one thing I do: forgetting what lies behind and straining forward to what lies ahead, I press on toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus.

Dual actions – count all as loss, press on to Jesus

What things may be keeping you from pressing on?

What things in your life have possibly become more important than serving God?

What are your personal goals?

What has God called you to?

Last week I asked you to commit to:

Give of your time, talents, and gifts

Tithe to support the church

Consecrate your life to be an example of authentic Christianity

Give generously beyond a tithe to Growing Grace, missions, ministries in Greenville

The men of Grace need to lead in this.

Men's prayer

Gladiator's heart

Encounter

It's time to stop the self depreciation and step up and be the men of God that you are called to be. There are some awesome men of prayer in this room. There are some amazing servants. There are men who have incredible insights into Scripture. Amazing husbands, fathers, leaders, men who can speak the Word of God with authority.

My goal is that by the end of the summer, we have an army of men who will change the future of Greenville, Texas. An army of men ready to take on the world.

Getting the right results

1 Thessalonians 1:6–7 (ESV)

And you became imitators of us and of the Lord, for you received the word in much affliction, with the joy of the Holy Spirit, so that you became an example to all the believers in Macedonia and in Achaia.

The best leaders are those that spend their time investing in and encouraging others.

Business leaders like Max DePree are so committed to servant leadership that this paradigm is intentionally woven into every aspect of their companies. DePree writes: “We must learn the value of each person who we lead and the gifts that they bring to the table...The leader casts the vision for the organization and then serves those he leads as they strive to accomplish that vision. The first responsibility of a leader is to define reality. The last responsibility of a leader is to say thank you. In between the two, the leader must become a servant and a debtor.”¹

¹ DePree, M. (1989). *Leadership is an Art*. New York: Doubleday.