

MARKS OF GODLY BELIEVERS  
FOLLOWING GODLY EXAMPLES—PT 2  
2 TIMOTHY 3:10-13

Introduction

In *verses 10-13* here, we have the contrasting marks of godly believers.

1. Mark 1: Following Godly Examples! (*vs. 10*)

2. Mark 2: Enduring Persecution! (*vs. 11-12*).

3. Mark 3: Guarding Against Evil Men! (*vs. 13*)

Tonight we look more at FOLLOWING GODLY EXAMPLES:

i.e. FOLLOWING THOSE WITH A TESTIMONY OF GODLINESS!

A godly person follows godly examples. (*Vs 10*)

This is a **sharp contrast** from the godless marks of those that we mentioned our messages on “*Last Days—Perilous Times*” from *2 Timothy 3:1-9*.

We saw the **ungodly** are concerned about **SELF** and what it wants!

We will see the **godly** are concerned about **CHRIST** and what He wants!

Timothy had **known** and had **closely observed** and had even **followed the godly example of Paul!** The words “*fully known*” means “*to follow a person so closely that one is always by the person's side, conforming his life to that person!*”

It means “*to join oneself to the person, to become his disciple and to follow his example.*”

**Paul had lived a godly life as an example before Timothy! Timothy had seen Paul's godly life and was encouraged to follow in his footsteps!**

**Paul mentions SEVEN things about his life that stand out as a dynamic example. These are things that we who are Believers must focus upon and follow if we wish to live a godly life pleasing to the LORD!**

**We looked at THREE of the SEVEN in PART 1, tonight, Lord willing, we're going to look at the other FOUR:**

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I. *THERE IS THE MARK OF SOUND DOCTRINE OR TEACHING!*  
One's DOCTRINE Or TEACHING DOES Make A Difference!

II. *THERE IS THE MARK GODLY BEHAVIOR AND CONDUCT!*  
Paul calls it “manner of life” which means “mode of living.”

III. *THERE IS THE MARK OF A GODLY PURPOSE!*  
GENERAL PURPOSE that applies to each and every Believer as well as a SPECIFIC PURPOSE OR PURPOSES for us personally!

IV. **THERE IS THE MARK OF A GODLY FAITH!**  
Believers must **pursue a growing faith in both God and His Word!** Understand that *faith* means both *to believe* and *to be faithful*.

Those who have *genuine faith* will have a *desire to be faithful* which results in a *practice of faithfulness!*

**Believers must learn to trust God more and more; to be men and women of faith...to be men and women of growing faith and even great faith!**

**We must learn to believe, trust, and depend upon God and to consistently grow more and more in our faith in God!**

**Believers must also seek to be faithful to God more and more!** Believers should have a desire to be loyal, obedient, and vitally attached to God by abiding in Christ the vine! **True Believers should want to please God in all that they do!**

*1 Corinthians 4:2—“Moreover it is required in stewards, that a man be found faithful.”*

*1 Thessalonians 2:4—“But as we were allowed of God to be put in trust with the gospel, even so we speak; not as pleasing men, but God, which trieth our hearts.”*

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*1 Timothy 1:12—"And I thank Christ Jesus our Lord, who hath enabled me, for that he counted me faithful, putting me into the ministry."*

- V. THERE IS THE MARK OF A GODLY LONGSUFFERING!**  
The word "*longsuffering*" means "*patience, bearing and suffering a long time, perseverance, being constant, steadfast, and enduring.*"

**Pressure and hard work may fall upon us as we labor for the LORD,** but the Spirit of God helps us *suffer long* under it all.

**Disease or accident or old age may afflict us as we labor for the LORD,** but the Spirit of God helps us to *suffer long* under it.

**Discouragement and disappointment may attack us as we labor for the LORD,** but the Spirit of God helps us to *suffer long* under it.

Those of this world **may do** and most likely **will do us wrong, abuse us, slander us, and even injure us because of our labor for the LORD;** but the Spirit of God helps us to *suffer long* under it all.

**Two significant things need to be noted about *longsuffering*.**

- A. *Longsuffering* Never Looks To Get Even!**  
Common sense tells us that a person who is attacked by others **could** strike back and retaliate. (*That's what flesh does.*)

But the Believer in Christ is to walk in the Spirit, not the flesh! And the believer who walks in the Spirit is given the power of *longsuffering*—**the power to suffer the situation or person for a long, long time without ever seeking after revenge!**

- B. A Godly Person Closely Observes And Follows After Those Who Are *Longsuffering*!**

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**A godly person is a disciple of the godliest of people!**

That means he follows after those who know how to plow through the trials and problems of life in their service for the LORD!

He learns from the *longsuffering* of others!

- VI. THERE IS THE MARK OF A GODLY LOVE!**  
The kind of love which the Believer is to have for all people is the one that is translated from the Greek word *agape*—that is the great love of God Himself!

The meaning of *agape* love is more clearly seen by contrasting it with the various kinds of love. There are essentially four kinds of love.

Whereas the English language has only one word for love to describe all the affectionate experiences of men, the Greek language had a different word to describe each kind of love or affectionate experience.

- A. Consider The Four Greek Words Used To Describe Love:**

- 1. There is PASSIONATE love or *eros* love.  
A love based on appeal!**

This is the physical love between sexes; the patriotic love of a person for his nation; the ambition of a person for power, wealth, or fame.

Briefly stated, *eros* love is the **base love** of a man that arises from his own inner passion. Sometimes *eros* love is focused upon good and other times it is focused upon bad.

**It should be noted that *eros* love is never used in the New Testament.**

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2. **There is AFFECTIONATE love or *storge* love.  
Love based on loyalty!**  
This is the kind of love that exists between loyal citizens and a trustworthy ruler.  
***Storge* love is also not used in the New Testament.**
  
3. **There is an ENDEARING love or *phileo* love.  
Love based on relationship! Fraternal love!**  
*Phileo* love is the love of a husband and wife for each other, of a brother for a brother, of a friend for the dearest of friends. It is the love that cherishes, that holds someone or something ever so dear to one's heart.  
  
It is translated "*brotherly love*", "*brotherly kindness*", "*love of the brethren*".
  
4. **There is SELFLESS AND SACRIFICIAL love or *agape* love. Love based on choice!  
*Agape* is the love that goes so far...
  - that it loves a person even if he does not deserve to be loved.
  - that it actually loves the person who is utterly unworthy of being loved.**

**B. Consider Four Significant Points About *Agape* Love:**

1. **This selfless or *agape* love is the love of God, the very love possessed by God Himself.  
(e.g. It is the love demonstrated in Christ's willingly going to the cross on our behalf!)**
  - a. **It is the love of God for the ungodly!**  
*Romans 5:6— "For when we were yet without strength, in due time Christ died for the ungodly"*

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- b. **It is the love of God for unworthy sinners!**  
*Romans 5:8— "But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us."*
  
  - c. **It is the love of God for undeserving enemies!**  
*Romans 5:10— "For if, when we were enemies, we were reconciled to God by the death of his Son, much more, being reconciled, we shall be saved by his life."*
2. **This selfless or *agape* love is a gift of God.  
It can be experienced only if a person knows God personally—only if a person has received the love of God into his heart and life.**  
  
*Agape* love has to be shed abroad (poured out, flooded, spread about) by the Spirit of God within the heart of a person.  
*Romans 5:5— "And hope maketh not ashamed; because the love of God is shed abroad in our hearts by the Holy Ghost which is given unto us."*
  
  3. **This selfless or *agape* love is the greatest thing in all of life according to the Lord Jesus Christ.**  
*Mark 12:29-31— "And Jesus answered him, The first of all the commandments is, Hear, O Israel; The Lord our God is one Lord: and thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind, and with all thy strength: this is the first commandment. And the second is like, namely this, Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself. There is none other commandment greater than these."*

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4. This selfless or *agape* love is the greatest possession and gift in human life according to the Scripture. (1 Corinthians 13:1-13)

VI. THERE IS THE MARK OF A GODLY PATIENCE!

*Patience* means *endurance, fortitude, steadfastness, constancy, perseverance.*

The word is **ACTIVE, NOT PASSIVE!** It is **NOT** the spirit that just sits back and **PUTS UP WITH** the trials of life, taking whatever may come. But rather it is the spirit that stands up and faces life's trials, that **ACTIVELY** goes about conquering and overcoming them.

When trials confront a man who is truly justified, he is stirred to arise and face the trials head on. He immediately sets out to conquer and overcome them.

**He knows that God is allowing the trials in order to teach him more and more patience (i.e. a patient endurance).**

**The godly person follows the example of those who are actively patient, who endure by walking through the trials of life, conquering all for Christ.**

He learns to be patient with people no matter what they do!  
He learns to be patient in trials no matter how severe they are!

*Luke 21:19—"In your **patience** possess ye your souls."*

*Romans 12:12—"Rejoicing in hope; **patient in tribulation**; continuing instant in prayer."*

*Hebrews 10:36—"For ye have need of **patience**, that, after ye have done the will of God, ye might receive the promise."*

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*James 1:2-4—"My brethren, count it all joy when ye fall into divers temptations; knowing this, that **the trying of your faith worketh patience.** But let **patience** have her perfect work, that ye may be perfect and entire, wanting nothing."*

*James 5:7—"Be **patient** therefore, brethren, unto the coming of the Lord. Behold, the husbandman waiteth for the precious fruit of the earth, and **hath long patience for it**, until he receive the early and latter rain."*

Conclusion

So, the bottom line is that **a godly person follows a godly example!**

**A godly example that manifests the characteristics we've seen in verse 10!**

**A godly example like the Apostle Paul!**

**So, the invitation is simple:**

**What kind of example are you following?**

**What kind of example are you showing others?**