

GROWING IN God's Word

JUST LIKE PAUL,

we will encounter people who want us to believe things that go against what God's Word says. Paul encouraged Timothy and others to be on guard against false teaching. He also stressed the importance of believers living out their faith through their words, actions, and attitudes. When others learn we are believers, they watch us closely to see how we act and how we react to situations. Are we hypocritical (say one thing, but do another) or does our walk match our talk? Here are some areas where we are to be an example—to other believers as well unbelievers—in our everyday lives.

Thoughts

Philippians 4:8 says we should think about **true, honorable, just, pure, lovely,** and **commendable** things. Why is this important? The things we, think of often eventually show up in our words, actions, and attitudes. Colossians 3:2 teaches us to set our minds on things above and not earthly things.

Words

Colossians 4:4 says we should have **gracious speech** and 1 Thessalonians 5:11 says to **encourage** other people instead of tearing them down with words. Psalm 19:14 teaches us the words we speak, along with the meditation of our hearts, should be **pleasing** to God.

Do the words you say to your parents and others in authority and the tones you use reflect a godly example?

What do others hear when you talk to your friends?

Actions & Attitudes

Philippians 2:14–15 says we are to do everything without complaining or arguing. Every person has to do things he or she doesn't want to do. But doing them with a **right** attitude shows you are willing to put others before yourself and choose to be **helpful**. Colossians 3:17 teaches us we should do everything like we are doing it for God. A right attitude means doing your **best**, even when no one is watching.

Do others see you are follower of Jesus in your actions or are your actions no different from those of an unbeliever?

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