

#1. *In On It By Example, Part 1*

REVIEW:

THREE DIMENSIONS OF OUR LOVE FOR GOD

1. Loving GOD'S Presence → 2. Loving GOD'S Person → 3. Loving GOD'S Project

- ☞ God's "project" is save the world from the damage caused by mankind's disobedience.
- ☞ God intends to save the world by redeeming many people and by building His church.
- ☞ Getting in on "the project" requires each of us to become an authentic follower of Jesus Christ, and to become an authentic part of an actual church of Jesus Christ



There is a war going on: a spiritual war requiring spiritual weapons (II Corinthians 10:3-5)
 The gospel is "the power of God" (Romans 1:16) → 'the missile that does the work'
 There are two 'missile launchers': the individual Christian and individual churches

TODAY:

As authentic followers of Christ, we have a moral obligation to cleanse ourselves from "wickedness"

- a) in order to authenticate our commitment to Christ

Luke 6:46

"Why do you call Me, 'Lord, Lord,' and do not do what I say?"

Matthew 7:23

"And then I will declare to them, 'I never knew you; DEPART FROM ME, YOU WHO PRACTICE LAWLESSNESS.'"

- b) in order to be useful to Christ

II Timothy 2:21

Therefore, if anyone cleanses himself from these things, he will be a vessel for honor, sanctified, **useful** to the Master, **prepared for every good work**.

- c) in order to be good examples to others

II Timothy 2:22-26

Now flee from youthful lusts and pursue righteousness, faith, love and peace, **with those** who call on the Lord from a pure heart. But refuse foolish and ignorant speculations, knowing that they produce **quarrels**. The Lord's bond-servant must not be quarrelsome, but be **kind to all, able to teach, patient when wronged, with gentleness correcting those who are in opposition...**

I Timothy 1:16

Yet for this reason I found mercy, so that in me as the foremost, Jesus Christ might demonstrate His perfect patience **as an example** for those who would believe in Him for eternal life.

Philippians 3:17

Brethren, **join in following my example**, and observe those who walk according to the pattern you have in us.

Philippians 4:9

The things you have learned and received and heard and seen in me, practice these things, and the God of peace will be with you.

I Timothy 4:12

Let no one look down on your youthfulness, but rather in speech, conduct, love, faith and purity, **show yourself an example** of those who believe.

Titus 2:7,8

...in all things **show yourself to be an example** of good deeds, with purity in doctrine, dignified, sound in speech which is beyond reproach...

So when it comes to the obedience that is required of us because of our commitment to Christ...

- Our speech
- Our thought life
- Our relationships
- Our management of our appetites

[So when it comes to the obedience that is required of us because of our commitment to Christ,] there's lots at stake: our spiritual well-being and usefulness – and the spiritual well-being and usefulness of those around us.

So in all that we say and do, there's lots at stake:

Not only:

Is this the right thing to do/to say/to be?

But also:

Will this make me more (or less) useful to God?

And also:

What effect will my words/attitudes/actions have on the people around me?