

Examples

For none of us lives to himself, and no one dies to himself.—Romans 14:7

You have probably heard the saying, “No man is an island.” We are always influencing someone for good or for bad. When you face a situation you may think of someone who has faced a similar situation and successfully come through their trial. We may ask questions or we may just observe but either way, we find guidance in other people’s lives.

I remember godly women in my church and how as a teen I learned so much from the way they lived. I saw one lady who I admired greatly, get up in front of the church and ask someone she had offended to forgive her. That taught me that it is good to ask for forgiveness and it is a major thing to offend a brother or sister in Christ. By the same token, when I babysat for a family in the church I saw things in their home that disturbed me. People in my church had an influence on my life.

Godly examples are not limited to church members. My mother and my grandmother taught me by the words they said and the way they lived. Their example set a high standard for me. They say my grandmother raised five children and never raised her voice. My husband teaches me many things and I am thankful for his example.

When I face physical adversity, I think of the testimony of Joni Eareckson Tada. When I need definite answers to prayer, I think of George Mueller. When I think of overwhelming situations I remember Gideon or Paul. When I think of a steadfast faith, I think of Joseph or Stephen.

We can all think of people who have influenced us in the areas of perseverance, Christ like communication, a gentle spirit, faithful friendship, a peaceful countenance, and joy in adversity. Paul invitation to believers is, “Brethren, join in following my example, and note those who so walk, as you have us for a pattern” (Philippians 4:17).