

“Hope Deferred When Your Examples Let You Down”

1 Thessalonians 1:5-10

Let me ask you a question:

Who has been your example(s) in life?

Has anyone ever let you down?

Someone you looked up to?

Someone who should have...

- Been there we you needed them
- Never left you when you needed them
- Never hurt you
- Never fallen, sinned
- Never been so uncaring



We all have examples in our lives. People who have helped us (physically & spiritually).

People you look up to, you learn from them!

And, what about those who should have taught but DIDN'T!

But what if they let us down?

They fall, they fail, they quit, they sin, they disqualify themselves!

We can have discouragement, disappointment, hope deferred with people who let us down, [and it will happen] because we live in a sinful, imperfect world!

Today, I want to talk about that Hope Deferred, delayed expectations, when disappointed with “leaders,” when they let you down. When they have sinned.

When you want to get angry, lash out at them for putting you in this place of upset, hope deferred! Especially, when it happens with spiritual leaders.

So, what do we do?

What can we learn about this topic? How are we to properly follow our examples when we know they are human and can make mistakes? What can we do when our hope is deferred because the person we have looked up to has let us down?

Let me give you 4 principles in following others for you to consider this morning:

- Because we are not going to stop following.
- We will always look up to others. (especially spiritually)
- Learn from them, appreciate them, love them.
- In order to be a better person, to become more Christlike!

- But we understand (or do we?) that they fail.

What can we do because the person we looked up to spiritually has let us down?

I. We are to follow our spiritual examples

A. 9x in the NT, follow examples...

1 Corinthians 10:11 *Now all these things happened unto them for examples: and they are written for our admonition, upon whom the ends of the world are come.*

B. 2 things to remember:

1. Watch (be careful) who you follow.

(Philippians 3:17)

2. Follow your pastor (Hebrews 13:7) *Remember your leaders, those who spoke to you the word of God. Consider the outcome of their way of life, and imitate their faith.*

II. The Disappointment

A. It's sad

B. The heartsickness

III. The Adjustment

A. What do I do?

B. Continue to respect and love your leader for what he was, and still is (Philippians 1:15-18).

IV. The Encouragement

A. We have the Lord; He is always steadfast!

B. We are all leaders – that people look up to (vs.6-7).

Conclusion:

- There will be times when people, leaders will let us down.
- And there will be disappointment (hope deferred).
- But the great news is KEEP YOUR EYES ON GOD!
- Don't look at anyone too highly!
- God will never let you down.