



Bible Study
October 10, 2018

MODELING CHRISTIAN EDUCATION
Rev. Ryan F. Jackson

Modeling is essential to Christian Education because it serves as an inspiration and visual guide for students to obey the Word of God. *As a ministry lead/Sunday School teacher, be mindful that people may miss your teaching but they will never miss your life.* I learned this valuable ministry lesson as a deacon. As a deacon, I emulated my life after an elder deacon who lived the Scripture out before my very eyes. His philosophy was that he was a deacon 24/7; meaning, he was just not a deacon at church, but he was a deacon everywhere he went and at all times. He taught me the importance of being on time, being consistent (not missing Sundays or Prayer Service/Bible Study), being a servant by meeting the needs of others, and most importantly, supporting/standing with your pastor. It is amazing that this deacon taught me this, not in a classroom but through his life. I have discovered your greatest teaching is your life, not your classroom. As ministry leaders or teachers, we must take on the philosophy of "I'll show you as I tell you." That's why the Apostle Paul states in **1 Corinthians, 11:1 Imitate me, just as I also imitate Christ.** God wants to use ministry leaders/Sunday School teachers to be examples for people to follow. As individuals follow godly behavior, they will automatically run into Christ.

As teachers, don't just tell students what to do, show them what to do and then tell them how you did it. This is called **Discipleship.**

1. SHOW them how to love, then tell them how YOU LOVED.
2. SHOW them how to pray, then tell them how YOU PRAYED.
3. SHOW them how to worship, then tell them how YOU WORSHIPPED.
4. SHOW them how to give, then tell them how YOU GAVE.

For students to get biblical results, they need examples modeled before them that shows them how to be like Christ. Andrew Carnegie states "As I grow older, I pay less attention to what people say. I just watch what they do." No wonder why Jesus modeled behavior for His disciples in the New Testament. *It was because the disciples could not be something that they had not been shown.* As ministry leaders/Sunday School teachers, we expect students to grow and develop into who Christ has called them to be unless we give them a visual picture of what it means to be like Christ.

The Necessity of Modeling

Modeling is necessary for Christian Education because it aids us in doing the Great Commission. A disciple is one who first draws people to Christ ([2 Corinthians 5:20](#)) and then shows them how to follow Christ—[1 Corinthians 11:1](#). To follow Jesus is to imitate Christ and participate in the same work of Christ—[Ephesians 2:10](#). As ministry leaders/Sunday School teachers, we are to lead students by showing others how to do the work of Christ. *Many believers are familiar with quoting and reading Scripture but not actually doing the Scripture.*

Modeling and Biblical Expectation

There is a strong connection between modeling and expectation. Good parents illustrate this principle. Their love for their children produces expectations. Good parents love their kids enough to have expectations for their behavior. Expectations such as being polite to others, treating others with respect, getting good grades, doing chores, and the list can go on. But the point is that good parents love their kids enough to put expectations in place for them to obey because they want them to grow up to become law-abiding adults. *Likewise, as leaders our love for God and others ([Matthew 22:37-39](#)) should drive us to have biblical expectations for those following us because we want them to obey God and grow up to become healthy, productive Christians.*