



The Good News

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Role Models

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As you remember back to your childhood, who did you want to be like the most? Did you want to be like Buck Rogers, or Sandra Dee, or Tom Selleck? As I was growing up, I remember wanting to be like Captain Kirk from Star Trek. He was courageous and smart, witty and charming, toned and muscular, and he had great hair. Everyone looked up to him and followed his orders because he was the captain. He cheated death countless times. There were many different characteristics that I wanted to take and make my own. Yet, I also had to be warned about some of Captain Kirk's bad characteristics: he was a womanizer, he sometimes used bad language, and he was a drinker of alcohol, to name a few. All things considered, he did not manifest a character that was Christ-like, nor was he trying to. I could certainly look at him and find things that I liked, but I had to be told that I should not try, or want, to be just like him. No matter how old we get we often choose role models that exhibit characteristics that we want...but do we choose, and help our children choose, proper role models? What does God say about role models?

They should "walk" in the path of a Christian – In **Phil. 3:17**, Paul encourages the Philippians to *"join in following my example, and note those who so walk, as you have us for a pattern."* This was not arrogance on Paul's behalf, but rather a strong confidence and assurance that he "walked" in the way that a Christian was to walk. He encourages the brethren to walk as he walked and to "note" them that did the same, looking to them as "patterns" or examples. One could even say that they were to look at these Christians as role models as they were walking the proper path. Is there anyone that we can look to that provides an example of "walking" the path that a Christian is to walk? We can, of course, look to Paul and other Biblical people as examples, and we should. But it also helps to identify individuals around us that walk properly and use them as role models as well.

They should exhibit Christ-like characteristics – In **1 Pet. 2:21ff**, Peter tells the Christians that Christ left us an example that we are to follow. In the context of the passage we are to be willing to suffer just as Christ also suffered, but this also means that we are to be willing to obey and please God, no matter what the cost. All of the accounts we can read regarding the life of Jesus describe to us a Man who did all things to please His Father, just as we are to do. Can we identify someone who exhibits this kind of character?

They should exhibit a desire to do what God wants – In **1 Pet. 2:2**, Peter encourages the Christians to *"desire the pure milk of the word, that you may grow thereby"*. The only way to know what God wants is to know His word. We are to desire to know the word that He gave to us that we may be pleasing to Him. If someone does not desire the "pure milk of the word", they will not exhibit Christ-like characteristics, nor will they "walk" in the path of a Christian. Does our role model want to please and obey God?

They should desire to be a role model – In **1 Tim. 4:12**, Paul tells Timothy to *"be an example to the believers"*. A Christian should be cognizant of the fact that someone may look to them as an example. Therefore, we must take extra care to exhibit the proper Christian character, desiring to be role models "to the believers".

It's fine to look to people like Captain Kirk, Sandra Dee, LeBron James, or Batman for characteristics...but we must make sure those characteristics are godly ones. Should I drink alcohol and womanize like Captain Kirk did? Should I wear that immodest clothing like Wonder Woman? Should I get unlawfully divorced like Tim Duncan? Am I helping my child to understand whom they should look to as a role model and whom they shouldn't? Let's choose godly role models that will help us get to heaven.