



Writers' Mill



What People Might Think of You:

By:

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Remember when you were in middle school (in my day it was junior high—there was no middle school back then) and you would spend an hour or more just getting your hair just right, mash that aggravating pimple, change your clothes multiple times, just so you might impress others? Then when you got to school, those that had not liked you before—guess what—they still didn't like you. Those friends you could depend on—if you had any— may not even say a word about the results of all that fuss you spent hours on.

That need to impress others and to feel accepted did not go away just because we walked across the stage and received our high school diploma then on to college graduation and whatever advanced degrees we may have received. The human psychic has a built-in drive or need to feel accepted. You ever wonder what it is about that guy or gal who everyone seems to want to receive acceptance from, has that others don't have? I would like to say Jesus Christ; but that is not always the case. So, just what is it?

There has been a great deal of study to answer that very question. While we may be able to compile and list some of the traits of a good leader, I don't believe that question has ever been fully answered. It may be that the Good Lord knows there is only a limited number of positions for leaders and that is all he makes for that current time period.

However, having been in the army for a number of years, I know adequate to good leaders can be groomed. Never the less, it is almost always, that born leader who rises to the top, the one who shines above all the rest, the one who can tell others to go to "hell" and they look forward to the trip. We don't know exactly what makes that kind of leader. However, we do know that if one aspires to be a leader: one needs to be the example. Never expect others to do what you won't do. For instance, the infantry moto is "Follow Me", as the one in charge takes the lead. Our moto should be: "follow me, as I follow Christ."

We—being in God's army—should and must set the example. We must—always—be trying to emulate the one perfect example—Jesus Christ. In [1 Timothy 4:12](#) it says: ¹² Let no one despise you for your youth, but set the believers an example in speech, in conduct, in love, in faith, in purity. This was Paul advising his young student, Timothy, with regards to his youthfulness when dealing with brothers in Christ who may, very well, be his senior in age as well as in Christ.



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I, as a boy, lived with an Assembly of God preacher for some years. As a joke—not addressing anyone specifically—he would say “some will say:” “I’ve been in the way for forty years.” He would, again, as a joke—say: “Yep, they have been in the way, and need to get out of the way.” Once again, in the army, we used to say: “either lead, follow, or get out of the way”. So, as you can see, this topic of discussion has been around from time immemorial, and still, we don’t quite understand what makes some folks outstanding leaders in the world.

On the other hand—Paul has made it quite clear that we—the Christian leaders—must set the example in the way we live our lives. I have been there; I’ve done that; I’ve been the guy who thinks a colorful word or two properly punctuating a sentence when conversing with the fellows, just shows I’m one of the guys. Is that what we are told to do as Christians? What does the bible say about separating ourselves from the boys?

2 Corinthians 6:14-18

Do not be unequally yoked together with unbelievers. For what fellowship has righteousness with lawlessness? And what communion has light with darkness? And what accord has Christ with Belial? Or what part has a believer with an unbeliever? And what agreement has the temple of God with idols? For you are the temple of the living God. As God has said:

*"I will dwell in them
And walk among them.
I will be their God,
And they shall be My people."
Therefore "Come out from among them
And be separate, says the Lord.
Do not touch what is unclean,
And I will receive you."
"I will be a Father to you,
And you shall be My sons and daughters,
Says the LORD Almighty."*

John 17:14-19

I have given them Your word; and the world has hated them because they are not of the world, just as I am not of the world. I do not pray that You should take them out of the world, but that You should keep them from the evil one. They are not of the world, just as I am not of the world. Sanctify them by Your truth. Your word is truth. As You sent Me into the world, I also have sent them into the world. And for their sakes I sanctify Myself, that they also may be sanctified by the truth.

So, the bible is very clear: our tone, choice of words, and topic for discussion matters. How can we show we are different than the world and entice others to follow us—as we follow Christ—if we don’t sound or look different from the world? We are not to try to fit in just to be one of the boys. We should stand out, not fit in.