

Be a Living Demonstration – Part 1

By Pedro Gelabert

When I look into the encouragement that Paul gave Timothy in the following Scripture: *“Don’t let anyone look down on you because you are young, but set an example for the believers in speech, in life, in love, in faith and in purity”* (1 Timothy 4:12), I’m convicted by the call to be a living demonstration (Greek for “example,” type/pattern) of God’s Truth. His Truth is manifested in me through my speech, love, and purity (Greek for “purity,” chaste and sinless in the treatment of others (especially relationships)).

This is a tall order, but a must in a world that is into the cult and propagation of “self.” Anything intelligent that we can gather from the world, through its books, shows, news, programs, philosophy and education--the worldly influence, so to speak, is mostly aimed at setting the WORST example in speech, life, love, faith, and purity. Only through the sacred Scriptures can we look deeper into the encouragement that Paul gave Timothy and find out how to manifest these Truths in our lives.

Manifestation of these Truths comes by establishing our “vertical” relationship with God, through the “horizontal” relationships we make and nurture with our brothers and sisters. This process of mingling ourselves with the Body and becoming separate from the world brings about maturity and understanding of what we have in Christ.

At times, I can sense my motives getting caught up into the attitude of the “me generation” that exists in the worldly influences that touch my life. Pity the poor soul that doesn’t believe the Words of God in the following passage:

“Dear friends, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits to see whether they are from God, because many false prophets have gone out into the world. This is how you can recognize the Spirit of God: Every spirit that acknowledges that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is from God, but every spirit that does not acknowledge Jesus is not from God. This is the spirit of the antichrist, which you have heard is coming and even now is already in the world. You, dear children, are from God and have overcome them, because the one who is in you is greater than the one who is in the world. They are from the world and therefore speak from the viewpoint of the world, and the world listens to them. We are from God, and whoever knows God listens to us; but whoever is not from God does not listen to us. This is how we recognize the Spirit of Truth and the spirit of falsehood. Dear friends, let us love one another, for love comes from God. Everyone who loves has been born of God and knows God. Whoever does not love does not know God, because God is love” (1 John 4:1-8).

This passage is packed with “meaty” encouragement and information! John first begins by establishing the fact that the types of spirit(s) that are in the world are anti-Christian. This spirit doesn’t acknowledge that Jesus is God’s Son in the flesh and therefore, rejects His teachings and authority as Lord. It is a spirit of defiance, faction, and lack of trust. It is not a spirit that patiently tests the spirits to see whether they are from God, but it is a spirit of distrust and apathy. It is of the devil himself! It questions things because it despises authority and does not want to subject itself under anyone. It lacks humility and therefore, understanding and wisdom. It promotes self, individuality, independence, and democracy; NOT the Body of Christ, unity, like-mindedness, and Jesus’ Lordship! The Spirit of Jesus is one that ALWAYS encourages holiness and Truth.

The Lord Jesus has enabled us to serve in the following capacity:

Evangelist

Robert Carr

Associate Evangelist

Pedro Gelabert

Spanish Minister

Charlie Gomez

Youth Minister

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Marriage Counselors

Derek Peterson

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“Let your Light so shine...”

Matthew 5:16

Be a Living Demonstration – Part 2

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John then goes on to encourage us to not be intimidated by this type of spirit. Since we belong to the Truth and have God inside of us, we have overcome this type of spirit. Therefore, we do not give into its influences, but we rather promote the Truth by exercising love. John then finishes up this passage by affirming that love for one another is the way in proving to be part of the Truth. Consequently, this love is based on self-sacrifice and proven through what we do:

“Dear children, let us not love with words or tongue but with actions and in Truth. This then is how we know that we belong to the Truth, and how we set our hearts at rest in His presence whenever our hearts condemn us. For God is greater than our hearts, and He knows everything. Dear friends, if our hearts do not condemn us, we have confidence before God and receive from Him anything we ask, because we obey His commands and do what pleases Him. And this is His command: to believe in the name of His Son, Jesus Christ, and to love one another as He commanded us” (1 John 3:18-23).

I know my heart sometimes condemns me because I know I don't deserve the honor to be before God's assembly. I am but a worm--a sinner. I thank God that He has saved me from my sins and my foolishness and is teaching me to love and to be a part of His Body. Therefore, since God is greater than this little heart of mine, I have confidence that I work in Him and that He works through me. My task? To love one another as He commanded us and to treat all my brothers and sisters with absolute purity and respect as Paul encourages Timothy:

“Do not rebuke an older man harshly, but exhort him as if he were your father. Treat younger men as brothers, older women as mothers, and younger women as sisters, with absolute purity” (1 Timothy 5:1-2).

“The Lord added to their number...”

Acts 2:47

Baptisms

DATE	NAME	TOWN
02/04/03	Lisa Budden	Mastic
02/11/03	Ojay Jones.....	Bay Shore
02/12/03	Antonio Begin.....	Jamaica, N.Y.

“They first gave themselves to the Lord...”

2 Corinthians 8:5

Weekly Budget: \$ 6,000		
DATE	ATTENDANCE	CONTRIBUTION
02/02/03	348	\$ 6,938
02/09/03	362	\$ 7,959
02/16/03	287	\$ 5,874
02/23/03	332	\$ 7,793

Love and Respect

Do you want to raise spiritually healthy children who will develop into God-honoring adults? Do you want to be the kind of mother that God can use as a faithful partner in this endeavor? Lately, I've been reading some books about godly parenting and the tremendous importance of the family. Dr. James Dobson writes, “The devastating impact of family disintegration on children is indisputable” (*Bringing up Boys*, page 54). One factor emerges as critically important to the physical, emotional, and spiritual well being of our children: the role of the father.

God, our perfect Father, has purposely placed the father in the role of head of the household. But, does the world affirm this? Consider just about any TV show or commercial that focuses on families. A typical married man is portrayed as immature, weak, and not very bright. He bumbles through life idiotically, his ineptness, creating all kinds of problems. His wife, who is of course smarter, better looking, more talented and competent, has to routinely step in and clean up his mess. The message: Men are idiots; they have to be tolerated and humored, but women are clearly superior. This thinking subtly pervades our culture and can affect our households negatively, unless we take care to counterbalance these influences. This “cleverness” is not from God!

We, as wives and mothers, can be part of the solution to this problem. Romans 12:2 says, “*Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind.*” In our own homes, we can refuse to engage in disrespectful and dishonoring behavior toward our husbands. We do a great disservice to both our husbands, who are precious beloved sons of God, AND to our children, if we feed into this basic disrespect for men that pervade popular thinking. We rob our children when we undermine our husband's authority, or fail to give him the respect due him, according to our Creator. We need to view and treat him as God does!

Proverbs 14:1 says, “*The wise woman builds her house, but with her own hands the foolish one tears hers down.*” We, as wives and mothers, can be used by God to encourage a healthy, honoring relationship between our husbands and our children or we can be a stumbling block to this relationship.

Here are just some of the ways that we tear down our families and hurt our children by the way we treat our husbands: belittling or mocking comments, a tendency to argue or contradict him, arrogance, yelling, spitefulness, nagging, criticizing, ignoring him, turning your back on him, disrespectful hand gestures (including waving him off, throwing hands up in disgust), and a whole slew of negative facial expressions such as smirks, glares, looks of disgust, rolling eyes (remember the Lord detests “*haughty eyes*” Proverbs 6:17).

Are you guilty of any of these? These things are shameful in private and inexcusable in public. They show a general disrespect for your husband that DOES affect him in a multitude of adverse ways. And because your children will observe your attitude (even if you don't think they notice, the living video cameras WILL observe it!) they too will suffer.

So, in addition to repenting of the above, how can we be builders of our families? Did you know the word “edify” (Greek “*Oikodomeo*”) literally means to build (“*demo*”) a family, home, or house (“*Oikos*”)? Do your words edify or tear down your husband? Ask yourself, “What can I say to my husband that will strengthen, encourage, and build him up?” My father-in-law used to say that all he really needed, as a husband, was “love and respect.” His point of view is backed up in the Bible. We are **commanded** as wives to love and respect our husbands (Ephesians 5:33, Matthew 22:39). Above all, remember that “*...love builds up*” (1Corinthians 8:1). What a great gift to give to your family! The future of your children may depend on it.

“For the building up of the Body...”

Ephesians 4:12

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- 📖 We will not meet for Wednesday night class on March 12th (L.I.) and March 26th (City) 2003.
- 📖 **Attention all Women:** The 13th annual Women's Day will be held on Saturday, April 12th, from 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. at The Plattdeutsche Park Restaurant, located at 1132 Hempstead Turnpike in Franklin Square. This year's topic is "...train the younger women..." (Titus 2:3-5). Registration will be taking place in the chapel lobby, before and after Sunday services, beginning March 9th through March 30th. The registration fee is \$21.00 per person.
- 📖 If you would like to order a cassette tape of a past sermon or seminar, please see Rob Dixon.
- 📖 If you would like to send a Church bulletin or a Bible study to an interested relative/friend on a regular basis, please contact our brother Jack Peisel.
- 📖 All announcements and address/telephone changes should be submitted to Derek Peterson.

ADDRESS & TELEPHONE NUMBER CHANGES

☎ Steve Aponte Jr.: His cellular phone number has changed. His new number is: 917-656-0520.

MISSIONARY SUPPORT

- ✚ Good News Stand.....Sayville, New York
- ✚ Paolo Di Luca.....Italy
- ✚ Apologetics PressInternational
- ✚ We Care Ministries.....West Monroe, Louisiana
- ✚ Ron Clayton.....India

“Your faith toward God has gone forth...”

1 Thessalonians 1:8

COMMUNITY BIBLE CLASS MINISTRIES

Long Island Ministry.....(Wednesday 7:30 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.).....Robert Carr.....(631) 348-7322
New York Institute of Technology Chapel, Carleton Avenue, Central Islip, NY

City Ministry.....(Wednesday 7:30 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.).....Pedro Gelabert(646) 226-2361
Plattdeutsche Restaurant, 1132 Hempstead Turnpike, Franklin Square, NY

UPCOMING KINGDOM EVENTS

For anyone wanting to use his/her vacation in a fruitful way, take a vacation to help bring souls to Jesus. :) Join a “We Care Ministry” soul winning team and help bring people to the Lord. Learn the techniques of the “We Care Ministry” team leaders: Larry West, Bob Danklefsen, and Joe Barker. Room and board will be provided. If you have any questions or need more information, please contact Bob Carr.

We Care Campaign Itinerary

2003	Location
March 7 - 9	Coleman, TX (Seminar only)
March 14 - 16	Bonne Terre, MO (Seminar only)
April 4 - 6	Natchez, MS (Seminar only)
April 24 - May 4	Mt. Vernon, MO
May 16 - 18	Holland, MI (Seminar only)
May 23 - 25	Palmdale, CA (Seminar only)
June 19 - 29	Laurel, MD