

THE POWER OF SILENT SERMONS

Intro.

- I. Poem: "I'd Rather See a Sermon", by Edgar A. Guest.
 - A. There are several passages that illustrate the importance of a good example. Js.2:15; 1Jn.3:17f; Mt.5:16; 2Th.3:6-10; Phil.3:16f; 4:8f; 1Co.11:1
 - B. In the NT, we have the instructions as to HOW to live, and also have the examples, to show how it can be done.
- II. Now let's look at 4 areas of "The Power of Silent Sermons".

Discussion

I. 1st, TPOSS IN PURE LIVING.

- A. To tell a child he should not **curse, drink alcohol, steal** or commit **adultery**, means nothing if parents are setting a bad example by DOING the same things. Ro.2:1-3
 - 1. *Illus.* HIS BOTTLE WAS MISSING.
 - 2. Many young people SEE a bad example in their parents or other adults, and it rings so loudly in their minds that they can't hear what may be said.
- B. We must **abstain** from the works of the flesh in order to set a good example.
 - 1. The works of the flesh are enumerated in scripture. Gal.5:19f
 - 2. We must avoid such sinful works. 1Pe.2:11; 1Jn.2:15-17; Ga.5:17
 - a. The word "lust" (pertaining to the flesh) is from the Greek word *epithumia*, and is found in varied forms some 40 times in the NT—3 times in a desire good things, and 37 times in a desire for evil or bad things.
 - b. We must never make provision to **fulfill** the "natural desires" of the flesh, in a sinful way. Mt.5:28; Ro. 6:12; 13:14; 1Co.10:6; 2Ti.2:22A; Js.1:12-14....
 - c. By living pure lives, we are preaching a silent sermon against fleshly lusts.

II. 2nd, TPOSS IN GOOD CITIZENSHIP.

- A. Paul wrote to Christians in Rome, and in spite of the fact that the Roman government was corrupt, he urged them to be obedient. Ro.13:1-4; cf Ac.5:29..
- B. Peter declared that we are to preach a silent sermon to evil doers by submitting to civil ordinances. 1Pe.2:13-17

III. 3rd, TPOSS IN THE BUSINESS WORLD.

- A. Framed in the language of slavery, the principles pertaining to *employers* AND *employees* must be respected.
 - 1. Employees must be subject to their employers. 1Pe.2:18-20; Ep.6:5-8
 - 2. Employers must treat their employees with fairness and respect. Js.5:4; Ep.6:9
 - 3. In business dealings, Christians should prefer **dealing** with Christians instead of unbelievers. Ro.12:10f
- B. The example of a good employer makes good future employers out of employees, who learn from their silent sermons.

IV. 4th, TPOSS IN THE HOME.

- A. Wives can best win unbelieving husbands by a good example, rather than by words. 1Pe.3:1-4; Col.3:18
- B. Husbands are to treat their wives with love and respect. **Ep.5:28f; Col.3:18**
- C. Parents are to preach silent sermons to their children.
 - 1. They are to set a good example before their children, by living as parents live, and be sexually faithful to one another.
 - 2. This will reinforce the instruction they give to them. Pr.22:6; Ep.6:4; Col.3:21
- D. Children can preach a silent sermon to their friends by being obedient. Ep. 6:1-4

Concl.

- I. Poem: THE GOSPEL ACCORDING TO YOU.
- II. Exhortation

