

Our Examples are Stronger than Our Words!

When Jesus had finished washing the disciples' feet he asked them a simple question: "Do you know what I have done to you?" Jesus also gave them the answer: "For I have given you an example, that you also should do just as I have done to you" (John 13:12, 15).

Paul tells us that he wants to be our example "Brothers, join in imitating me, and keep your eyes on those who walk according to the example you have in us" (Phil. 3:17). The Thessalonians became an example for others to follow "so that you became an example to all believers..." (1 Thess. 1:7).

In Deuteronomy 6, parents are instructed to constantly and consistently speak about and live out their family's allegiance to God and His Word. Just coming to worship services and giving verbal ascent to God and matters of the church is not enough to fulfill our faithfulness to God. Take a moment and read about all the great characters in Hebrews 11-13. Look closely and take note that they were not considered great examples of faith because of the things they said, but rather because of the things they DID in obedient faith. Jesus emphasized this when he said, "Not everyone who says to me, 'Lord, Lord,' will enter the kingdom of heaven, but the one who does the will of my Father who is in heaven" (Matt. 7:21). James tells us, "But be doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves" (James 1:22). When all has been said and done, let's be sure that we have done more than we have said.

A special word to our parents of our children at Karns. We cannot treat fellowship, gathered worship, church events, and youth group activities as electives. Our children are relational people and will participate in an environment where they have friends and feel welcomed and cared for, and we have that here at Karns. Parents need to MODEL that Christian worship and fellowship are a commitment and not an elective. In a loving and gracious way let's sound the alarm that involvement in our student ministry is not an elective, but is vital in faith development during the formative years of our youth.

What does your example teach your children?

For the elders,
Gregg Woodall