

Christ our EXAMPLE

(scriptures from *NKJV*)

1 Peter 2: 21-22

For to this you were called, because Christ also suffered for us, leaving us an **example**, that you should follow His steps: “*Who committed no sin, Nor was deceit found in His mouth*”

1 John 2:6

He who says he abides in Him ought himself also to walk **just as** He walked.

1 Cor. 11:1

Imitate me, just as I also *imitate* Christ. [said the Apostle Paul]

1 Peter 4:1

Therefore, since Christ suffered for us in the flesh, arm yourselves also with the same mind, for he who has suffered in the flesh has ceased from sin,

Philip. 2:5

Let this mind be in you which was also in Christ Jesus,

Jesus Christ was obedient to God’s law, and He set us an **example** that we should follow His steps (I John 2:6; I Peter 2: 21-22). If you *surrender* your life to God, then, at baptism, Christ begins to live **in you** (Acts 2:38; Gal. 2:20). And He will live, in you, the *same obedient* life that He lived 2,000 years ago (Phil. 2:8). “Jesus Christ is the **same** yesterday, today, and forever” (Heb. 13:8).

The following is from the website article “Did Paul Do Away With God’s Law?”:

It is undeniable that Jesus Christ led a life of *obedience* to God’s spiritual law—and that He taught that *we too* must strive to obey God’s law. Yet, “clever theologians have devised a scheme that effectively does away with Jesus’ example *and* teaching about *obedience* to God’s law. They state that since Jesus’ entire human life and ministry were before the cross, His example and doctrine is not for us today. In other words, they agree that Christ upheld the law. But they claim that when the Apostle Paul came on the scene, he— with God’s guidance and blessing— abolished the law and replaced it with *grace*, thereby ‘liberating’ us.”

Yet, ask yourself this: “Does it make sense that Jesus would set a particular *example* all His life... tell those that He had trained to *teach* all that He had taught them **to all nations** (Matthew 28:20)... then a few years later bring in Paul and have him start teaching *very different* doctrines? ***Absolutely ridiculous!***”

The following is from the website article “Is the SABBATH Command in the New Testament?”

I Cor. 11:1

Paul, apostle to the Gentiles, instructs Christians to “Imitate me, **just as I also imitate Christ**” (I Cor. 11:1). Yes, Paul *imitated* Christ, and instructs us to do *likewise!*

Did Christ keep the Sabbath? Notice Luke chapter 4: “So He came to Nazareth, where He had been brought up. And **as His custom was, He went into the synagogue on the Sabbath day**, and stood up to read” (verse 16). So, here we see it was Christ’s custom to worship on the Sabbath—that is, it was something He *always did*. In fact, not only did Christ always *observe* the Sabbath day, He said that He is “Lord **of** the Sabbath”! (Mark 2:28).

Yes, Jesus Christ *kept* the Sabbath, and Paul said that he *imitated* Christ. Did Paul, in fact, imitate Christ in keeping the Sabbath? Notice Acts chapter 18: “And he [Paul] reasoned in the synagogue **every Sabbath**, and persuaded both Jews **and Greeks**” (verse 4). (Also, see Acts 17:1-2.) Yes, Paul kept “**every Sabbath**”—*with his Gentile converts*—as well as with the Jews.

Acts chapter 13 provides an even *more* compelling example of Paul and his Gentile converts keeping the Sabbath. “Now when Paul and his party set sail from Paphos, they came to Perga in Pamphylia; and John, departing from them, returned to Jerusalem. But when they departed from Perga, they came to Antioch in Pisidia, **and went into the synagogue on the Sabbath day** and sat down” (verses 13-14). Then, in verse 16, Paul got up to speak. Paul proceeded to preach *Christ* to them (verses 23-41). Now, notice verse 42: “So when the Jews went out of the synagogue, **the Gentiles begged that these words might be preached to them [when?] the next Sabbath.**”

Notice what author Herbert W. Armstrong said about this: “Now since Paul was preaching ‘the grace of God’ (verse 43), here was his opportunity to straighten out these Gentiles, and explain that the Sabbath was done away. Why should he wait a whole week, in order to preach to THE GENTILES ON THE NEXT SABBATH? If the day had now been changed to Sunday, why did not Paul tell them they would not have to wait a week, but the very next **day, Sunday, was the proper day for this service? But notice what Paul did. ‘And the NEXT SABBATH DAY** came almost the whole city together to hear the word of God’ [verse 44, *KJV*]. Here **Paul waited a whole week, passing up a Sunday, in order to preach to the GENTILES on the Sabbath day.**”¹

Furthermore, verse 45 shows that this crowd was *mostly Gentiles*. It says, “But when the **Jews** saw the multitudes, they [the Jews] were filled with envy...”

So, we’ve plainly seen that, years *after* Christ’s crucifixion, Paul—*Apostle to the Gentiles*—**imitated Christ** in keeping the Sabbath day. Furthermore, Paul instructs that **we Christians imitate him**—*as* he imitates Christ (I Cor. 11:1).