

Am I a Good Representative of Yahshua?
Is He My Example?

Have you ever thought about this? When we repent and accept Yahshua as our Savior, we also accept an awesome responsibility. We become His agents - His representatives here on this earth.

**He spoke in His Father's Name [John 12.49].
He is our example [John 13.15, 1 Peter 2:21].**

The Apostles, the Elders and Teachers are to follow that example, setting an example to others.

(1 Tim 4:12 NRSV) "Let no one despise your youth, but set the believers an example in speech and conduct, in love, in faith, in purity."

In like manner, everyone who has been converted is to be an example to other believers, as well as to outsiders. We must have a 'good report' from non-believers [1 Tim. 3.1-7]

Some have said it is OK to lie to outsiders. In fact, the Jewish Talmud states that. If this is so, how could we have a "good report of them without?" Would you give a good report about a liar? Scripture says liars will go to the lake of fire.

(Rev 21:8 KJV) "But the fearful, and unbelieving, and the abominable, and murderers, and whoremongers, and sorcerers, and idolaters, and **all liars**, shall have their part in the lake which burneth with fire and brimstone: which is the second death."

Abraham lied, and this is used as an excuse by some. But Abraham had a momentary lapse of faith; it is obvious YHWH was not pleased with Abraham.

(Gen 12:17 KJV) "And Yahweh plagued Pharaoh and his house with great plagues because of Sarai Abram's wife."

While scripture does not say, no doubt he repented of this lie, since it says (Gen 26:5 KJV) "Because that Abraham obeyed my voice, and kept my charge, my commandments, my statutes, and my laws."

What about adulterers? If you can lie to non-believers, can you commit adultery as long as your partner is a non-believer? Or stealing. Can you steal from non-believers without sin? Of course not! We are supposed to be lights to the world. What kind of light are we if we lie, steal and commit adultery, and teach others to follow that example? Is that what we want to teach? I hope not!

(Mat 5:19 KJV) "Whosoever therefore shall break one of these least **commandments**, **and** shall teach men so, he shall be called the least in the kingdom of heaven: but

whosoever shall do and teach *them*, the same shall be called great in the kingdom of heaven."

(Eph 5:25 KJV) "**Husbands, love** your wives, even as The Messiah also loved the Assembly, and gave himself for it;"

(Col 3:19-21 KJV) "**Husbands, love** *your* wives, and be not bitter against them.

[The NRSV says "**...never treat them harshly.**"]

{20} Children, obey *your* parents in all things: for this is well pleasing unto YHWH. **This is speaking of a father "in the Faith." Your obligation is to obey them "in YHWH." If they teach against the Scriptures, then you should not follow their lead.**

(Acts 5:29 KJV) "Then Peter and the *other* apostles answered and said, We ought to obey YHWH rather than men."

{21} Fathers, provoke not your children *to anger*, lest they be discouraged."

Children provoked to anger become disheartened and lose heart. They will end up not following Yahweh.

Why have I brought all this up? We ought to examine ourselves whether we be in the faith. We should do this every day, but now especially. We are coming to the time of year just before Passover when we are commanded to examine ourselves. Hold the mirror of Yahweh's Word up before our faces and see if we like what we see.

Ask yourself, "How am I doing?" Better yet, ask YHWH. Then look for the answer in His Word.

(Gal 5:13-26 NRSV) "For you were called to freedom, brothers and sisters; only do not use your freedom as an opportunity for self-indulgence, but through love become slaves to one another. {14} For the whole law is summed up in a single commandment, "You shall love your neighbor as yourself." {15} If, however, you bite and devour one another, take care that you are not consumed by one another. {16} Live by the Spirit, I say, and do not gratify the desires of the flesh. {17} For what the flesh desires is opposed to the Spirit, and what the Spirit desires is opposed to the flesh; for these are opposed to each other, to prevent you from doing what you want. {18} But if you are led by the Spirit, you are not subject to the law.

{19} Now the works of the flesh are obvious: fornication, impurity, licentiousness, {20} idolatry, sorcery, enmities, strife, jealousy, **anger, quarrels, dissensions**, factions, {21} envy, drunkenness, carousing, and things like these. I am warning you, as I warned you before: **those who do such things will not inherit the kingdom of Yahweh.**

{22} By contrast, the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, generosity, faithfulness, {23} **gentleness, and self-control**. There is no law against such things. {24} And those who belong to The Messiah Yahshua have crucified the flesh with its passions

and desires. {25} If we live by the Spirit, let us also be guided by the Spirit. {26} Let us not become conceited, competing against one another, envying one another."

We all have faults that need rooting out. Now is the time. Do any of us have more of these "works of the flesh" than we do the "fruits of the Spirit?"

If so, we need to examine whether we even HAVE YHWH's Spirit.

(1 John 4:1 NRSV) "Beloved, do not believe every spirit, but test **the spirits** to see whether they are from Yahweh; for many false prophets have gone out into the world."

How do we test the Spirits? Against His Word.

But we have to be careful. Remember the verse that says,

(Jer 17:9-10 KJV) "The heart *is* deceitful above all *things*, and **desperately wicked**: who can know it?

Proverbs says there is a way that seems right to a man, but the end thereof leads to death. (14:12)

Why is it so hard for us to see ourselves as we really are? In one word, PRIDE.

(Mark 7:21-23 KJV) "For from within, out of the heart of men, proceed evil thoughts, adulteries, fornications, murders, {22} Thefts, covetousness, wickedness, deceit, lasciviousness, an evil eye, blasphemy, **pride**, foolishness: {23} All these evil things come from within, and defile the man."

Pride appears 49 times in 46 verses, and every one has a bad connotation. Pride keeps us from submitting to authority. We become arrogant and will not submit. We begin to think YHWH is on our side.

We love to lean to our own understanding. We become an authority unto ourselves. Those who will not submit to any earthly authority, are not of Yahweh. We are simply fooling ourselves.

(Eph 6:5-19 KJV) "Servants, be obedient to them that are *your* masters according to the flesh, with fear and trembling, in singleness of your heart, as unto The Messiah; {6} Not with eyeservice, as menpleasers; but as the servants of The Messiah, doing the will of Yahweh from the heart; {7} With good will doing service, as to the Lord, and not to men: {8} Knowing that whatsoever good thing any man doeth, the same shall he receive of the Lord, whether *he be* bond or free. {9} And, ye masters, do the same things unto them, forbearing threatening: knowing that your Master also is in heaven; neither is there respect of persons with him. {10} Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord, and in the power of his might. {11} Put on the whole armour of Yahweh, that ye may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. {12} For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high *places*. {13} Wherefore take unto you the whole armour of Yahweh, that ye may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand. {14} Stand therefore, having your loins girt about with truth, and having on the breastplate of righteousness; {15} And your feet shod with the preparation of the gospel

of peace; {16} Above all, taking the shield of faith, wherewith ye shall be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked. {17} And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of Yahweh: {18} Praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, and watching thereunto with all perseverance and supplication for all saints; {19} And for me, that utterance may be given unto me, that I may open my mouth boldly, to make known the mystery of the gospel,"

This is what we need to be doing. If we see we are falling short, then we need to get to work on it! May YHWH bless you! ~