

THE IMPORTANCE OF BEING A GOOD ROLE MODEL

6.22.14

IS ROLE MODELING IMPORTANT?

- ❖ 66% of teens want to get a tattoo in the same place as a celebrity
- ❖ 75% of teens say giving into peer pressure boosted their social standing (smoking, drugs, drinking, bullying)
- ❖ 77% of teens likely to diet after a celebrity loses weight
- ❖ According to the National Eating Disorder Association, 42 percent of first- through third-grade girls say they want to be thinner, and 81 percent of 10 year olds are afraid of being fat.

IS ROLE MODELING IMPORTANT?

- ❖ The National Eating Disorder Association stated, **"The average American woman is 5'4" tall and weighs 140 pounds. The average American model is 5'11" tall and weighs 117 pounds"**. Furthermore, **"Most fashion models are thinner than 98 percent of American women."**
- ❖ Code Blue Report (1990's): **"Never before has one generation of American teenagers been less healthy, less cared for, or less prepared for life."**
- ❖ **"Children living in two-parent families who had only a fair or poor relationship with their fathers were at 68% higher risk of smoking, drinking, and drug usage than teens having a good or excellent relationship with dads."** (National Center on Addiction and Substance Abuse, Columbia University)

WHAT IS A ROLE MODEL?

- ❖ A person whose behavior, example, or success is or can be emulated by others, especially by younger people
- ❖ The model usually has something desired by others (e.g., fame, position, looks, wealth, physical abilities, or simply being an adult)
- ❖ The means determines a good or bad role model

T/F: WE ARE ALL ROLE MODELS AT SOME POINT IN OUR LIVES

- ❖ **Emulation follows admiration**
- ❖ The saints of the church (e.g., St. Rebekah)
 - ❖ The virtues we sing of are those we ourselves are pursuing
- ❖ *“I would 'die' to meet... (celebrity or saint)”*
- ❖ We need living saints to bridge the gap between the past and the present



ROLE MODELS TEACH AND INFLUENCE PRIMARILY BY ACTION

- ❖ Anba Shishoi to those who would come seeking spiritual advice:
"I am neither a leader nor a teacher. But if that young man wishes to learn something, then if there is anything that I can teach him, let him look at how I behave, and how I act, and let him do likewise, without my having to instruct him."
- ❖ "For though you might have ten thousand instructors in Christ, **yet you do not have many fathers; for in Christ Jesus I have begotten you** through the gospel. Therefore I urge you, **imitate me.**" (1 Cor. 4:15-16)
- ❖ Some think they can inspire change and/or create a culture based on mere remarks

WHO CONTROLS ADMIRATION AND EMULATION?

- ❖ **We do not control what traits, values, or behaviors other admire and/or emulate**
- ❖ We cannot choose what personal attributes I want others to emulate
- ❖ **“Preach the word! Be ready in season and out of season.” (2 Tim. 4:2)**

ALL GOOD ROLE MODELS SHOULD HAVE ROLE MODELS

- ❖ Problem: Pride
- ❖ **“A disciple is not above his teacher, nor a servant above his master. It is enough for a disciple that he be like his teacher, and a servant like his master.”** (Matt. 10:24-25)
- ❖ A good role model is like a ladder to the top
- ❖ Consider the Church



IS THERE POTENTIAL DANGER IN AN UNRELIABLE ROLE MODEL?

- ❖ How does it feel to discover your role model is unreliable?
- ❖ Some will question all leaders or authority around them (e.g., when parents become unreliable)
- ❖ **“Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you travel land and sea to win one proselyte, and when he is won, you make him twice as much a son of hell as yourselves.”**
(Matt. 23:15)
- ❖ **“But whoever causes one of these little ones who believe in Me to stumble, it would be better for him if a millstone were hung around his neck, and he were thrown into the sea.”** (Mk. 9:42)

HOW TO BE A BETTER ROLE MODEL?

1. Accept Responsibility

- “The things which you learned and received and heard and saw in me, these do, and the God of peace will be with you.” (Phil. 4:9)

2. Know yourself

- Know your weaknesses, strengths, values
- If you cannot lead yourself, you cannot lead others

HOW TO BE A BETTER ROLE MODEL?

3. Make positive choices for yourself and others

- Ask yourself, *What if the whole world made this choice as I did? Would God be satisfied with the state of the world?*

4. Be humble

- Do not seek to be a role model or teacher
- **“My brethren, let not many of you become teachers, knowing that we shall receive a stricter judgment.”**
(Jam. 3:1)