**Following Paul**

Introduction: **1 Corinthians 11.1** in telling the Corinthians to "follow" or "imitate him" as he followed Christ, Paul recognizes three truths.

1. Man is an imitative being; he is a follower

2. Christ is the ultimate example to follow, **1 Peter 2.21**.

3. Following Christ is possible, I'm doing it, you can too.

Paul realized he was not perfect, but he was an acceptable representative of Christianity, **Phil. 4.9**. Let us notice some things in Paul worthy of emulating.

**I) He Was A Man of Conviction**

**A) He always did what he "thought" was right, Acts 26.9,10.**

1. Notice, his conviction did not mean he was always right, but his conviction moved him to do what he thought was right. **Acts 23.1; 24.16; Galatians 1.13,14**.

2. When he was convinced that Jesus was the Son of God, he accepted him immediately, **Acts 9.5,6; 20-22; 26-29**.

**II) He Was A Man of Faith**

**A) His baptism was an act of faith, Acts 22.16.**

1. Left behind his friends, his family, his lively hood.

2. Every person has to be moved by faith.

**B) Faith is something we study about, talk about, but its true character is seen when lived, Galatians 2.20.**

1. I may not agree with every person but I recognize when people exhibit their faith.

2. To see a person truly living according to the Bible is something to emulate.

**III) He Had Singleness of Purpose**

**A) This "one thing I do", Phil. 3.13,14.**

1. We often criticize people who are "tunnel vision" and can't see the big picture.

2. We need to see the "big picture" and have tunnel vision in that regards.

3. To be happy and successful, we need a purpose in life. **Ecc. 12.13.**

**B) Paul's main purpose was to magnify Christ.**

**IV) He Endured Trials and Hardships**

**A) We have a whole list of persecution faced by Paul, 1 Corinthians 4.11-13; 2 Cor. 11.23-30.**

**B) He considered his afflictions to be light ones, Romans 8.18.**

1. How many of us would have considered those trials as being light.

2. Hopefully we won't every face those things but we need to be willing to endure.

**V) He Gave Up All For Christ**

**A) He counted all things loss for Christ, Phil. 3.4-11.**

**B) He knew it was worth it, Mark 10.28-30.**

**VI) He Was Faithful To God's Word**

**A) He preached the truth that was needed, Acts 20.20.**

1. Not water it down or hold back from the truth.

2. Make it relevant to those listening.

**B) He "finished the course", 2 Timothy 4.6,7.**

1. Keep in mind the joy of a Christian entering into heaven.

2. Sometimes it is hard to say good bye but we need to rejoice.

**VII) He Loved The Souls Of The Lost**

**A) He loved the souls of Jews and Gentiles. Romans 1.14-16.**

**B) He took the Great Commission seriously and personally, Matthew 28.19,20.**

Conclusion: Christ has not set the standard too high. Following Christ is "doable". We have seen in Paul these things worthy of following. Are you? Will you?