



# Emulate Correctly

**“Be ye followers of me, even as I also am of Christ” (1 Corinthians 11:1).**

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“But a certain man named Ananias, with Sapphira his wife, sold a possession, 2 And kept back part of the price, his wife also being privy to it, and brought a certain part, and laid it at the apostles' feet. 3 But Peter said, Ananias, why hath Satan filled thine heart to lie to the Holy Ghost, and to keep back part of the price of the land? 4 Whiles it remained, was it not thine own? and after it was sold, was it not in thine own power? why hast thou conceived this thing in thine heart? thou hast not lied unto men, but unto God. 5 And Ananias hearing these words fell down, and gave up the ghost: and great fear came on all them that heard these things. 6 And the young men arose, wound him up, and carried him out, and buried him. 7 And it was about the space of three hours after, when his wife, not knowing what was done, came in. 8 And Peter answered unto her, Tell me whether ye sold the land for so much? And she said, Yea, for so much. 9 Then Peter said unto her, How is it that ye have agreed together to tempt the Spirit of the Lord? behold, the feet of them which have buried thy husband are at the door, and shall carry thee out. 10 Then fell she down straightway at his feet, and yielded up the ghost: and the young men came in, and found her dead, and, carrying her forth, buried her by her husband. 11 And great fear came upon all the church, and upon as many as heard these things” (Acts 5:1-11).

The late Evangelist Reinhardt Bonnke once said with respect to his messages that “copyright is the right to copy” implying that others can use his messages in preaching without the fear of breaching copyright as his messages are based on the eternal word of God.

There is wisdom in following good examples and avoiding wrong ones as that expedite success and avoid costly mistakes that has doomed others. Many scriptures, including the few listed below encourage us to follow godly examples:

- 1) 1 Corinthians 11:1 “Be ye followers of me, even as I also am of Christ”.
- 2) Philippians 3:17 Brethren, be followers together of me, and mark them which walk so as ye have us for an ensample.
- 3) Hebrews 6:12 That ye be not slothful, but followers of them who through faith and patience inherit the promises.

Good as it is to follow the right, scriptures also ad-

**“... for the letter killeth, but the spirit giveth life” (2 Corinthians 3:6).**

monish us to careful to follow correctly. A mere “copycat” approach that misses the essence and spirit behind the issue will not work as demonstrated by these scriptures:

- 1) Hebrews 13:7 Remember them which have the rule over you, who have spoken unto you the word of God: whose faith follow, **considering the end of their conversation.**
- 2) “... the letter killeth, but the spirit giveth life” (2 Corinthians 3:6).
- 3) Zechariah 7:1-14 unanswered petitions despite 70 years of fasting and praying two months every year!

The voice of miracle and the associated divine interventions in the events in Acts 3 and 4 has produced a strong church with noble examples of benevolent believers meeting the needs of others, which provoked Ananias and Sapphira to follow suite. However, they failed to follow correctly. They emulated the external actions of Barnabas without replicating his spirit, and this resulted in their disastrous death.

In the religious world today, many are eager to copy what they found working successfully elsewhere to replicate in their ministries. They often wonder why it did not produce a similar result for them. The answer is because “... the letter killeth, but the spirit giveth life” (2 Corinthians 3:6). So, the next time you are about to emulate or copy, remember:

- 1) Ananias and Sapphira (Acts 5) who copied the good example of Barnabas (Acts 4) but without the Spirit of Barnabas and died in the process;
- 2) Sampson (Judges 16:20-30) who copied the shaking of himself he was used to, but without the Spirit of God, he lost his eyes, freedom and life;
- 3) Nadab and Abihu (Leviticus 10) who repeated the offering process that was accepted by God in chapter 9, but without being instructed by Moses, and died.

These examples teaches the importance of copying correctly, as God is not a respecter of persons.