Guidelines For A Good Influence
1 Tim. 4:12

Introduction:
A. Timothy was not to merely tell believers how to live, he was to show them—“be an example”.
   1. The positive power of a good example. (cf. 1 Pet. 3:1,2).
   2. The negative power of a bad example. (cf. 1 Cor. 8:9-13).
B. Timothy was told to be an example is six areas of his life.

Discussion:
I. “In Word”
A. Doctrinal speech. (1 Tim. 1:3; Tit. 2:1; Rom. 16:17).
B. General speech. (Matt. 12:36,37).
   1. Should keep it truthful. (Eph. 4:25).
   2. Should keep it wholesome. (Eph. 4:29).
   3. Should keep it measured. (Jas. 1:19, 26).

II. “In Conduct”
A. Conduct that rises above what is common place in this world. (Phil. 2:15; Matt. 5:14-16).
B. Conduct that disarms the opposition. (Tit. 2:7,8; 1 Tim. 5:14).

III. “In Love”
A. Love that is universal. (Matt. 22:36-40).
   1. Family
B. Love that is genuine. (Rom. 12:9; 1 Pet. 1:22).
   1. Genuine love seeks best interest of its object.

IV. “In Spirit”
A. Need the right disposition to go with the right position.
B. Need to have the “spirit of Christ”—but we need to understand it.
   2. Tender and kind.
   3. Firm and sharp at times. (cf. Tit. 1:12,13)

V. “In Faith”
A. Not a blind faith. (Heb. 11:1; Rom. 10:17).
B. Not a dead faith. (Jas. 2:26).
C. Not a weak faith—but strong enough to overcome:
   1. Fear. (Mt. 8:26).
   2. Anxiety. (Mt. 6:30).
   4. Misunderstanding. (Mt. 16:6-8, 11-12).

VI. “In Purity”
A. Purity before peace. (Jas. 3:17).
B. Purity in all areas of our lives.
   1. In doctrine. (Tit. 2:7).
   2. In morals. (2 Tim. 2:22; 1 Cor. 6:15-20).

Conclusion:
A. Let us be molds, patterns, examples, pace-setters for others to follow.
B. Let us begin getting our lives in order.