

I was taking a training class one day and chose a seat next to a friend of mine. I talked to him for a few minutes, and then the instructor introduced himself and began the class. We each had a computer on our desk, for we were to learn how to use a new software program. We were asked to start the program and begin to exercise its various functions.

A few minutes into the class, I got a little bit sleepy and didn't respond to one of the teacher's instructions. He touched me on the shoulder and told me that I needed to perform the desired task. I was jerked back into reality, somewhat embarrassed at being caught, and it bothered me that he should be paying that much attention to what I was (or was not) doing. But I did what he asked, and the class moved on.

I kept up pretty well after that, but eventually I got distracted and missed something else. Once again, the teacher asked me to follow his instructions. I was really concerned about this now, and wondered why he kept picking on me.

Suddenly the reason for all of this dawned on me. My computer was the one attached to the projector for the display being shown in the front of the classroom! I felt like such an idiot! He was indeed watching every move that I made; indeed, he depended on my actions to teach the class!

This was quite a revelation! Now I could not relax an instant, I could not even go to the bathroom if I needed to without disrupting the entire class. I decided that this was a position that I did not want to be in at all. There was too much responsibility. I wanted to learn the course, but I figured my mind could coast a little from time to time. I thought I would not have to give 100% attention.

It reminded me, though, that God is watching every move I make, too. I may slack off, and I may sneak around and do something that escapes the notice of every person on this earth, but God will know. We have to realize that and straighten up our actions. Paul discusses a similar idea when he claims that we should serve as though Christ Himself is our master:

Slaves, obey your earthly masters with respect and fear, and with sincerity of heart, just as you would obey Christ. Obey them not only to win their favor when their eye is on you, but like slaves of Christ, doing the will of God from your heart. Serve wholeheartedly, as if you were serving the Lord, not men, because you know that the Lord will reward everyone for whatever good he does, whether he is slave or free.

Ephesians 6:5-8

Others are watching us, too. We have a responsibility to them as well, to be an example to them. Paul tells us in 1 Corinthians 11:1, "Follow my example, as I follow the example of Christ." We must be the representation of Christ here on this earth, as He was of God Himself (Hebrews 1:3). The church is the body of Christ (Colossians 1:18), so we have to be the hands and feet of Christ. This is so beautifully expressed in the following poem by Annie J. Flint:

Christ has no hands, but our hands

Christ has no hands, but our hands to do his work today;
He has no feet but our feet to lead men in his way;
He has no tongue but our tongue to tell men how he died;
He has no help but our help to bring them to His side
We are the only Bible the careless world will read;
We are the sinner's gospel, we are the scoffer's creed.
We are the Lord's last message given in deed and word;
What if the type is crooked?
What if the print is blurred?