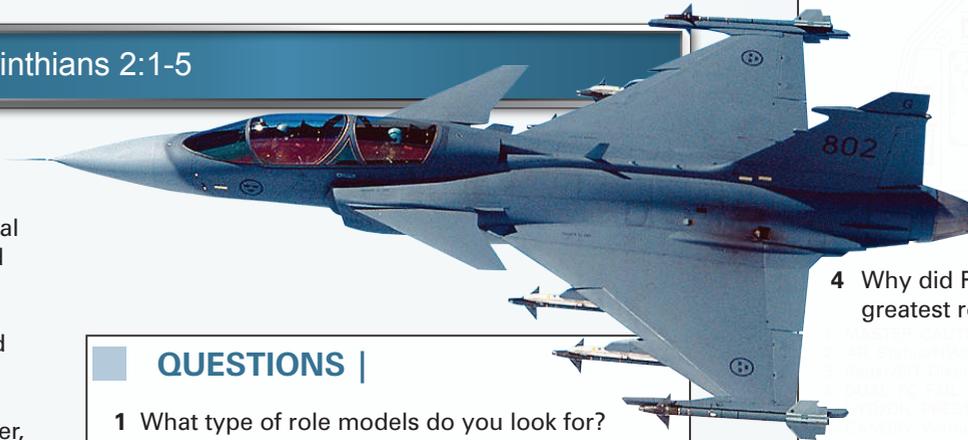


WARM UP | For many male golfers Tiger Woods was a role model in life. His relationship with his father, his family, his success, his confidence, all pointed to what seemed good and right. We all know what happened. His trail of sexual exploits, lies and cover-ups has devastated an awesome sports career. Try as you might, you cannot separate aspects of a person's life. When role models crumble, and sadly it happens frequently, people wonder how they got it so wrong.

READ | 1 Corinthians 2:1-5

BACKGROUND |

In Corinth Paul faced a colossal challenge. Having established a ministry in Corinth and having left to continue his missionary work, Paul learned that a significant part of the congregation were following an Alexandrian Christian leader, Apollos. Apollos was a Christian orator of the old Greco-Roman school. Unlike Paul, Apollos was a cultured, polished and articulate Christian who could decimate Jewish opponents in public debate, to the delight of his followers. In the church the Corinthians began to emulate Apollos, focusing on the more demonstrative gifts at the cost of more significant things. Material success and spiritual ostentatiousness became more important than real faith. Paul countered this with the challenge of Christ crucified and the true power of the Spirit. Apollos, at least, seems to have listened, understood and withdrawn for other work. The Corinthians continued to struggle with which role model they wanted.



QUESTIONS |

- 1 What type of role models do you look for?
- 2 What role models have let you down?

INSTRUMENT PANEL

3 Who have been the best role models in your life?

4 Why did Paul depict the crucified Christ as the greatest role model?

MY RESPONSE AS A PROMISE KEEPER |

What do I need to apply from what I have learned from this study?

IT'S TIME FOR PRAYER |

CONSIDER THIS |

As children we look up to our dad in a very special way. When dad is absent there is a very real gap. When a father is abusive, neglectful or cruel it has a lasting effect. When a dad is good, loving and kind there is a very different result. The research is all too well known: we either tend to duplicate what has gone before us or we make a deliberate break with the past and start afresh. All good dads are trying to emulate our Heavenly Father but we also know when we fall short. The best job we can do as a dad is to deliberately try to emulate Christ and to teach our kids to do the same (knowing they will begin by copying us). Therefore when we fail it is important to confess this to our children, "Sorry, Dad messed up. Jesus wouldn't act like this." This tells them that we haven't lived up to our role model, Jesus. When they know that we have failed they will learn to look past us to Jesus for the right way.

WRAP UP |

While the Scriptures give us many role models there is none better than Jesus Himself. The more we know of Him, His life and the personal struggles He had, the more confidence we can have in not only making it through life, but living it abundantly (John 10:10).

