“More than that, I even consider all things to be loss because of the surpassing greatness of the knowledge of Christ Jesus my Lord, for the sake of whom I have suffered the loss of all things, and consider them dung, in order that I may gain Christ and may be found in him, not having my righteousness which is from the law, but which is through faith in Christ, the righteousness from God on the basis of faith, so that I may know him and the power of his resurrection and the fellowship of his sufferings, being conformed to his death, if somehow I may attain to the resurrection from the dead.

Not that I have already received this, or have already been made perfect, but I press on if indeed I may lay hold of that for which also I was laid hold of by Christ. Brothers, I do not consider myself to have laid hold of it. But I do one thing, forgetting the things behind and straining toward the things ahead, I press on toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus.

Therefore as many as are perfect, let us hold this opinion, and if you think anything differently, God will reveal this also to you. Only to what we have attained, to the same hold on. Become fellow imitators of me, brothers, and observe those who walk in this way, just as you have us as an example.

For many live, of whom I spoke about to you many times, but now speak about even weeping, as the enemies of the cross of Christ, whose end is destruction, whose God is the stomach, and whose glory is in their shame, the ones who think on earthly things. For our commonwealth exists in heaven, from which also we eagerly await a savior, the Lord Jesus Christ, who will transform our humble body to be conformed to his glorious body, in accordance with the power that enables him even to subject all things to himself.

So then, my beloved and greatly desired brothers, my joy and crown, thus stand firm in the Lord, dear friends.”
- Philippians 3:8-21;4:1 (LEB)

“Become imitators of me, just as I also am of Christ.”
- 1 Corinthians 1:11 (LEB)

“Therefore I exhort you, become imitators of me.”
- 1 Corinthians 4:16 (LEB)

“Whoever says that he ·lives [abides; remains] in God must ·live [‘walk] as ·Jesus lived [‘he walked]”
- 1 John 2:6 (EXB)
“For to this you were called, because Christ also suffered for you, leaving you an example, so that you should follow in his footsteps”
– 1 Peter 2:21 (LEB)

“This is my commandment: that you love one another just as I have loved you. No one has greater love than this: that someone lay down his life for his friends.”
– John 15:12-13 (LEB)

‘Then Jesus said to his disciples, “If anyone wants to come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow me.”’
– Matthew 16:24 (LEB)

‘Then Jesus spoke to them again, saying, “I am the light of the world! The one who follows me will never walk in darkness, but will have the light of life.”’
– John 8:12 (LEB)

CONCLUSION:

I personally think that this theory has little or no way of being refutable and it seems to have the biggest advantage of having a practical consequence upon being believed. I agree with what Pascal-Emmanuel Gobry wrote: “I don’t believe it’s the whole story. But I think it’s [definitely] part of the story and we need to look at it more.” (In Defense Of Moral Influence Theory)

- Tom Torbeys
crosstheology.wordpress.com/moral-influence-theory