

“Worship Through Imitation”

Ephesians 5:1-2

C.I.T.—The Christian life should reflect the characteristics of God.

C.I.S.—We must mimic Christ’s love for others.

Purpose—I want our church to see the love of Christ for us as well as the standard by which we should live.

Introduction—Volkswagon commercial...imitation is the sincerest form of flattery... and worship

I. ***Imitate God like His Child.***

- a. Therefore—on the heels of Ephesians 4, having said all of this, Paul is now make a concluding statement, which also serves as an introductory statement.
- b. Imitate—mimitays—mimic—to imitate/follow another’s example
- c. In this case we are imitate God Himself.
- d. As beloved children—children in a loving relationship with their father.
- e. Illus.—Apple didn’t fall far from the tree—characteristics of our parents in our lives
- f. Application
 - i. 1 John 3:10
 1. Regardless of your profession, your life will reflect whom you are following.
 2. If someone’s life is characterized by sin, then they are children of the devil.
 3. If someone’s life is characterized by righteousness, then they are children of God.
 - ii. A genuine believer will reflect the one he/she is following.
 - iii. But God is God and I am not.
 - iv. How can I mimic Him?
 - v. How can even know how to mimic Him?
- g. If only He would become a man and show me!

II. ***Imitate God like His Christ.***

- a. Walk in love
 - i. Walk refers to the defining characteristic of your life and behavior
 - ii. It should be guided by love
 - iii. Agape—self-sacrificing, unconditional love
 - iv. This is THE Christian virtue.
 - v. Matthew 22:36-40
- b. Christ’s example
 - i. He loved us
 - ii. Gave himself and went to the cross
- c. His act of love served as worship
 - i. Offering and sacrifice
 - ii. Pleasing aroma
 - iii. Barbecue in the temple
 - iv. If it was a pleasing aroma, it was accepted by God
- d. Philippians 2:5-11
- e. Illus.—Disciples in the first century
- f. Application
 - i. How do we apply this principle of love?
 - ii. Follow Jesus sacrifice—Luke 9:23-26
 - iii. Putting others first—Philippians 2:1-4
 - iv. Serving others—Matthew 25:34-46
 - v. Greatest show of love is sharing with someone how they can be saved.

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Conclusion

- If you name the name of Christ, are you worshipping the Lord by mimicking His Son.
- Emphasize God’s love for you through Jesus.
- Gospel invitation/prayer