

IMITATORS OF GOD

Ephesians 5:1-2

In life we have many role models, some good some not so good. As a child who did you want most to be like? My days there were people like Dr. J, Rodger Staubach, \$6,000,000 man, Spiderman, Hulk, Michael Jordan, Rock stars. What about parents, preachers, teachers? All people whether they will admit it or not have patterned their life to some extent after someone else. Paul writing to the Ephesians is urging them to imitate, be an example, a pattern, a copy of God's image, so our lives, like Christ, may be a sweet aroma unto God.

HERE ARE A FEW MODEL CHARACTERISTICS OF GOD WE SHOULD IMITATE!

1. IMITATE GOD-- LIKE _____.

- **Universal Benevolence: Mat.5:43-45** "You have heard that it was said, 'You shall love your neighbor and hate your enemy.' But I say to you, love your enemies, bless those who curse you, do good to those who hate you, and pray for those who spitefully use you and persecute you, that you may be sons of your Father in heaven; for He makes His sun rise on the evil and on the good, and sends rain on the just and on the unjust.
- **Universal Compassion: Matt.5:46-48** "For if you love those who love you, what reward have you? Do not even the tax collectors do the same? And if you greet your brethren only, what do you do more than others? Do not even the tax collectors do so? Therefore you shall be perfect, just as your Father in heaven is perfect"
 - ❖ **2Pt.3:9** "The Lord is not slack concerning His promise, as some count slackness, but is longsuffering toward us, not willing that any should perish but that all should come to repentance.
 - ❖ **Ps.86:5** "For You, Lord, are good, and ready to forgive, And abundant in mercy to all those who call upon You."
 - ❖ **Lam.3:22-23** "Through the LORD's mercies we are not consumed, Because His compassions fail not. They are new every morning; Great *is* Your faithfulness.

2. IMITATE GOD-- LIKE _____.

- **By following Christ pattern: 1Pt.2:21** "For to this you were called, because Christ also suffered for us, leaving us an example, that you should follow His steps"
- **Example:** (Gk, *hoop-od'-igue-mah*) Literally means a pattern for cutting or stamping out an exact replica.

➤ **Exemplary living: 1Tim.4:12** "Let no one despise your youth, but be an example to the believers in word, in conduct, in love, in spirit, in faith, in purity."

- ❖ **WORD: Prov.23:23** "Buy the truth, and do not sell it,
- ❖ **CONDUCT: Col.1:10** "that you may walk worthy of the Lord, fully pleasing Him, being fruitful in every good work and increasing in the knowledge of God;"
- ❖ **LOVE: (text)**
- ❖ **SPIRIT: Rom.12:10-11** "Be kindly affectionate to one another with brotherly love, in honor giving preference to one another; not lagging in diligence, fervent in spirit, serving the Lord;"
- ❖ **FAITH: 2Thess.1:3** "We are bound to thank God always for you, brethren, as it is fitting, because your faith grows exceedingly, and the love of every one of you all abounds toward each other,"
 1. **Faithfulness to:**
 - a. _____.
 - b. _____.
 - c. _____.
 - d. _____.
 - ❖ **PURITY: James1:27** "Pure and undefiled religion before God and the Father is this: to visit orphans and widows in their trouble, and to keep oneself unspotted from the world."

3. BY IMITATING GOD _____.

- **Ps.1:1-3** "Blessed is the man who walks not in the counsel of the ungodly, nor stands in the path of sinners, nor sits in the seat of the scornful; But his delight is in the law of the LORD, And in His law he meditates day and night. He shall be like a tree planted by the rivers of water, That brings forth its fruit in its season, whose leaf also shall not wither; And whatever he does shall prosper."
- ❖ **Notice these six things the Psalmist says about the blessing of positioning in God.**
 1. _____.
 2. _____.
 3. _____.
 4. _____.
 5. _____.
 6. _____.

The world is looking for someone to show them Jesus, for someone to be an example of God's righteousness in the earth. People are looking for the reality of the kingdom of God lived out. Will you aspire to be an imitator of God?