

Imitators of God

Ephesians 5:1-2

Introduction

The pattern of imitation in the scriptures:

1. _____ imitated the Father - Jn 8:28; 14:31
2. The _____ imitated Jesus - Jn 20:21-23
3. The believers imitated _____ - 1 Cor 11:1
4. Others are to imitate _____ - 1 Tim 4:12; 2 Tim 2:2

I Be Imitators of God

Imitate = To _____ or copy

A. The general call to imitate God

1. Be kind and compassionate - Eph 4:32
2. Be merciful - Luke 6:36
3. Be pure - I Jn 3:1-3
4. Be _____ - 1 Peter 1:15-16
5. Be _____ - Matt 5:48

B. Paul's specific call to imitate God

1. In His _____ - Eph. 4:32; Col 3:12-13; Rom 5:8
2. In His _____ - I Jn 4:11-12; Matt 5:44-48; Lk 6:35-36

C. Hindrances to imitating God

1. An underdeveloped _____ with God
2. An underdeveloped _____ of God
3. An underdeveloped _____ to God
4. An underdeveloped _____ to God

II Live A Life of Love

A. The foundation of our love

1. God's _____ and acceptance - Rom 5:8; I Jn 4:19
2. God's _____ of us - Jn 1:12

B. The scope of our love

1. Love for _____ - Deut 6:4
2. Love for _____ - Jn 13:34-35

III Be Imitators of Christ

A. The general call to imitate Christ

1. Be humble - Phil 2:5-8
 2. Be loving - Eph 5:25
 3. Be a _____ - Jn 13:14-17
 4. Be willing to suffer - 1 Pet 2:21
 5. Be just _____ Him - I Jn 2:6
- B. Paul's specific call to imitate Christ
1. In His _____ for us - Jn 15:12-14
 2. In His _____ life - I Jn 3:16
 - a. A _____ offering
 1. To God - Lev 1:9
 2. To others - 2 Cor 2:15-16
 - b. A _____ to God - Rom 12:1

PERSONAL APPLICATION

Take some time this week to consider the following:

1. Who is the person in your life (past or present) who has been positive role model for you? What aspect of their life would you most like to imitate?
2. Take a moment and list as many of the character qualities of God as you can. Which ones would you most like to imitate?
3. The model for agape love is Christ. What condition were you in when He loved you? [Hint: Rom 5:8] How can you demonstrate this same kind of love to others?
4. Christ's love for you prompted Him to willingly sacrifice himself for you. On a scale of 1-10 (10 being the highest), how sacrificial is your life for others? What needs to happen for that number to be higher? [Hint: Read Romans 12:1]
5. What is hindering you from imitating God more fully -- an underdeveloped 1) relationship, 2) knowledge, 3) submission or 4) obedience? How can you grow in this area this week?
6. Thank God for the great privilege He has given you to be His son/daughter, and ask Him for power to be an accurate reflection of His likeness before a lost world.

BOB HALLMAN - THE EPIC LIFE

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