



*Christ Over All Series, Part 11: Christ Over our Limitations, Ephesians 5:1-21*  
Mike Halpin ~ April 30, 2017

**Intro:** Imitation— the sincerest form of flattery.

Ecclesiastes 1:9

Thomas à Kempis, *The Imitation of Christ* For à Kempis, imitating the life of Jesus, listening to His words and fashioning a life that mimicked His was the call of every Christian.

- ◆ What would imitating the life of Jesus look like for us?
- ◆ What kinds of things would we say that imitation REQUIRED?
- ◆ What kinds of things would we say that imitation FORBID?

**Text:** Ephesians 5:1—21

**I. Imitate God, Vs 1-2**

- Ephesians 4:32 Be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, as God in Christ forgave you.
- Ephesians 5: 1 Therefore be imitators of God, as beloved children.  
2 And walk in love, as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us...

Call to Christ like imitation:

- 1<sup>st</sup> Corinthians 4:16; 11:1
- 1<sup>st</sup> Thessalonians 1:16, 2:14
- Hebrews 6:12

“Imitate” God as His children:

- “imitate” = *mimic*

Why would we imitate others when we are children of the Father?

Imitating our Father includes, at least, forgiving others and giving them gifts of grace in any number of ways. It would also include honoring Christ since that’s what the Father does.

- John 17:5

“Imitate” our Savior—

The imitation we’re called to leads us to look like God our Father and Jesus our Savior.

**II. Don’t Imitate These, Vs 3-6**

What we DO:

- V 3 Any/all: sexual sin
- Moral/spiritual uncleanness
- Desire for people or things that displaces God

What we SAY:

- V 4 Any/all: "dirty" speech  
"moronic" talk  
crude joking

God's Children don't:

V 5-6

Those who still reside in the kingdom of darkness may make claims to being children of the Father but may be betrayed by their lifestyle.

- 1<sup>st</sup> Corinthians 6:9-11
- Gal. 5:19-21
- 2 Timothy 2:19...the Lord knows His own... those who claim/name him should leave sin behind...

### III. Don't Associate With These, Vs 7-14

- V 7 Therefore do not become partners with them
- 1 Corinthians 15:33

V8 for at one time you were darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Walk as children of light..

### IV. Careful, Wise Imitation, Vs 15-21

- 15 Look carefully then how you walk, not as unwise but as wise,
- 16 making the best use of the time, ...
- 17 ... understand what the will of the Lord is
- 18 ... be filled with the Spirit,
- 19 addressing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs
- 20 giving thanks always and for everything to God the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ,
- 21 submitting to one another out of reverence for Christ.

Galatians 5:22-23, The fruit of the Spirit is: Rate yourself, 1-10

Love _____	Goodness _____
Joy _____	Faithfulness _____
Peace _____	Gentleness _____
Patience _____	Self Control _____
Kindness _____	

We tend to imitate those we admire and those we spend the most time with.

- Who am I imitating?
  - Who has been a model for my own goals & desires?
  - To what degree has that imitation moved me closer to Christ's image?
- In what ways should others NOT model their lives on mine?
- In what ways am I a person others could/should model their lives?
- If I'm a parent, what am I likely to see reproduced in my child's attitudes, speech, actions?
  - If you're an older brother/sister, what will your younger siblings see modeled in you?
  - As a friend, what kind of influence am I having on others.