

IMITATING OTHERS

Philippians 3.17-21

WHO DO YOU IMITATE?

Though Paul warns of the comparison game, he also encourages believers to be imitators of those who have their eyes on Christ. Like it or not, you are imitating someone somehow. You've learned traits from your parents, or you've tried to keep up with the Joneses, or you've become a product of society.

We become what we behold.

Marriage: Our tendency is to want our *spouse* to imitate another godly spouse. But we don't look for examples of what *we* should be like. Or, we just want the blessings of a godly couple, without doing the things they do to get there.

Money: Do you just wish you were like people who had money? Or do you look to imitate certain people for what they *do* with their money?

Ministry: Do you pursue wisdom and guidance from others who are doing things you would like to do or get better at? Or do you just do it your way?

Attitude: Who around you consistently has a godly attitude? Have you ever asked them what they do to maintain an eternal perspective?

WHY DO WE IMITATE?

Imitation is in the midst of the essence of the incarnation, and incarnation is in the midst of the essence of discipleship.

1. **We Need to Imitate Godly Examples:** Firstly, we need people to imitate, because we need in-flesh examples of people following Christ. Don't believe me? We have a whole bible, God's written Word, that records human examples that aren't Christ for us to learn from.
2. **Younger Believers Need It:** new believers need others to incarnate the lifestyle, attitudes, and character of Christ.
3. **Non-Believers Need It:** For many, Christians will be the only "bible" they will ever read. We are the only image of God they may ever see.

2 Timothy 1.13

If you are filled with pride, you will have no room for wisdom.

-African Proverb

THE ULTIMATE EXAMPLE

Ultimately, of course, Paul wants us to imitate Christ. He says, "follow me *as I follow Christ*" (**1 Corinthians 11.1**). When it comes to marriage, He is the faithful Bridegroom who looks past our flaws. With money, He left His heavenly home to live among enemies, where He then poured out His life unto death for the sake of others. In ministry, He came to bind the brokenhearted, minister to orphans and widows, and save the lost sheep, neglecting the accolades of man and prestige. With attitude, He, "for the joy set before Him endured the cross" (**Hebrews 12.2**).

1 Peter 2.21

NOTES:

Upcoming Sermons:

Philippians 3.17-21: Paul will be reminding us to keep our eternal perspective as citizens of Heaven. With this in mind, we will also have brief comments on how to live both as citizens of Heaven as well as citizens of an earthly nation, particularly in a tumultuous and often confusing election year.

This Week's Scripture to Memorize:

1 Peter 1:3-5

³ Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! According to his great mercy, he has caused us to be born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, ⁴ to an inheritance that is imperishable, undefiled, and unfading, kept in heaven for you, ⁵ who by God's power are being guarded through faith for a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time.

Will You Pray With Us?

Follow along with our daily prayer requests by downloading the **PrayerMate App**, available on both **iOS** and **Android** phones. Go to our website for detailed instructions on how to subscribe to the app to be praying with us daily, as well as reading through our **2 Year Bible Reading Plan**.

ARE YOU NEW HERE?

WELCOME TO LIFE MISSION CHURCH!

We'd LOVE for you to fill out the green **Connection Card** on your seat to let us know you were here today. You can drop it in the offering at the end of service or take it to one of our teammates in a **Green Shirt** at the **Connection Booth** outside - we'd love to give you some welcome information. Feel free to grab some food or coffee out in the courtyard and hang out. We hope you'll **join us next Sunday** and consider making us your church family.

SERVING OPPORTUNITIES

If you've ever taken your child to one of our **Kids on Mission** classes, or enjoyed a cup of coffee after service, chances are there was a faithful servant behind each of those examples. Serving is one of the **most fun & rewarding ways we experience community** with our church family! **Fill out a connection card** to learn about the serving opportunities available today.

COMMUNITY GROUPS

The best way to **get connected** in the church is by joining one of our **Community Groups!** You'll forge friendships, be encouraged, and take the sermon deeper into your heart every week. **Sign up for a Group** on a **Connection Card** or visit the **Connection Booth**. You won't regret it!

GIVING

Gospel-centered generosity is motivated by a heart of thankfulness because of the sacrificial love God has already shown us. If you call **Life Mission** your home, you can place your gift in the offering baskets at the end of service, give online at lifemissionchurch.com/blog/give or mail a check to our PO Box. Thank you so much!

KIDS ON MISSION

Our **Kids on Mission** ministry has classes for **newborns - 5th grade**. Visit our website to read more about the vision and plan we have for our kids, including Pastor Jobey's heart for the ministry and his walkthrough of our curriculum. For questions about KOM email **Katie McGinty** at katie@lifemission.tv

JUNIOR HIGH STUDENTS

Our **6th - 8th graders** worship with the adults and then head to the junior high room with their teacher and classmates for the rest of service.

HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS

Our **9th - 12th graders** stay in the service because we believe that it is critical for them to not "graduate the faith" when they graduate school. Our **High School Ministry meets on Thursday Nights @7PM at Casey & Amy Barnes Home in San Marcos**. For directions and/or questions about our student ministries, contact **Casey Barnes** at casey@lifemission.tv.

VISION: WHY DO WE EXIST?

We want to see God's glory known among the nations, to the least, last, and lost.

MISSION: WHAT DO WE NEED TO DO?

We need to make disciples who make disciples locally and globally, who are saved, equipped, and sent by the Gospel.

STRATEGY: HOW WILL WE DO IT?

By teaching people how to be rooted in the Gospel of God's glory through the Word of God, Prayer, and Gospel Community.

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COMMUNITY GROUP HOMEWORK

Before group starts, is there anyone who can recite the week's memory verse?

Read **Philippians 3:17-21**. What impacted you the most from this Scripture or from Sunday's message? _____

On Sunday, Jobey gave examples of people we imitate. Is there one example in particular that stuck out to you, or are there other topics that you aim to imitate (good or bad), such as fashion, creativity, personality, skills, etc. _____

Read **Philippians 2:5-8** and **Hebrews 13:7**. What or who are we to imitate? Why is it so difficult? In your own life, what are the temptations or lies that keep you from obeying these verses? _____

Read **1 Peter 1:16**, **Leviticus 11:44**. According to these verses, what is the expectation? Can we alone as sinners do or accomplish this command? Read **Romans 12:1-2**. Once again we are called to an impossible task in and of ourselves, but God does not leave us on the path of destruction. He has provided a way, someone to follow, a life to imitate. How are we made holy? _____

When you were younger you may have heard your parents say or teachers say, "you are who your friends are." Read **Philippians 4:6-9** and **Colossians 3:1-17**. Our time in the Word and the relationships that God has placed in our life are an opportunity to imitate our Savior to the world. Which of these characteristics or actions do you find challenging or need the Holy Spirit's help to imitate? Discuss with one another as you encourage each other in fruit that you see in their lives. _____

Christ is our ultimate example and has accomplished everything that we were and are incapable of fulfilling. He has given us rest in the shadow of His righteousness and the Holy Spirit continues to sanctify our hearts so that we can imitate the Savior to the lost and to our brothers and sisters. Spend some time in prayer praising the Lord for His work, repenting of our wrong imitations, asking the Holy Spirit to provide the strength we need, and trusting God that He will accomplish the work He has started.



Making Disciples Who Make Disciples Locally and Globally,
Who are Saved, Equipped, and Sent by the Gospel.



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Philippians 3.17-21 // September 25, 2016

SUNDAYS AT 10AM

Life Mission Church Meets at Classical Academy High School
207 E Pennsylvania Ave, Escondido 92025



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