

Imitate

ODCC 26/07/09 (x.pages)

Text: 1 Cor 11:1

Introduction

1. Our text follows on from the instructions Paul has given in the previous chapter, e.g. *“All things are lawful, but not all things are profitable. All things are lawful, but not all things edify. Let no one seek his own good, but that of his neighbour...”*
 - a. Having given instruction for Christian behaviour, Paul confidently says, Be imitators of me...
 - b. Some translations say “be **followers** of me,” and some say “be **imitators** of me”. The Gk word is correctly translated into English as “imitator” and we get another word “mimic”.
2. I’m sure you’ve had the experience of being lost and someone has led you through twists and turns and shown you a main road and said something like, “This road will lead you to where you want to go, from now on just follow the signs.”
 - a. It’s easy when you’ve got a good map but it’s so much easier when you’re following someone who knows the way especially when there are lots of twists and turns.
 - b. Our lives are like a journey and most of us largely follow other people, especially when we are younger.
 - c. For a time we might follow our parents but as we get older we may be inclined to buckle under peer pressure and follow the crowd.
 - d. And then we may may be influenced by one or a few select people whose influence may be good or bad but we are led by them for part of the journey.
 - e. There are right roads and wrong roads although I find that if people on the wrong road are enjoying the journey, they are not willing to change direction.
3. Paul said, *“be imitators of me”*. He was giving believers instructions on how they were to conduct themselves as believers of the Lord Jesus Christ.
 - a. But not just content to be a teacher of the way, Paul also walked in the way – he walked the talk – and he says, I am teaching you how to live, now watch me; follow my example.
 - b. I think it’s wonderful when we have people around us that we can use as examples. In my life there have been many examples of Godly men and women who have both taught me and been examples.
 - c. Not only can we watch them as they live the kind of life that is taught in the Scriptures, but we can talk with them and receive instruction and counsel and advise and even correction.
 - d. *Illustration:* A famous banker who, as an office boy was instructed by the president of a bank, to come into his office and to work with him. The office boy never left the banker’s side and watched and listened to everything the banker did, and learned from him, and eventually became like him.
4. Paul said, *“imitate me, as I imitate Christ”*. Whilst Godly people can be excellent examples to us, people we can imitate, ultimately we need to develop in our relationship with Christ so that He is the one we imitate.
 - a. *Illustration:* In the British museum there is a Greek writing tablet which is over 2000 years old. It is the classical equivalent of a child’s copybook. The headline has been written by the master. The scholar has traced the second with his eye on the first; but afterward each line is a reproduction, not of the first writing but of the last. Consequently, each line shows a wider divergence from the pattern that the one before.

Following or imitating one another may lead to a similarity to Christ but it is far better for us to become imitators of Christ. THE END