

Sermon Title: The Imitation

Sermon Series: Philippians – Unbreakable Joy

Scripture: Philippians 3:17-21

Speaker: Pastor Ian Bonthron



Imitation

Who are your _____ ?

Who do you _____ ?

Philippians 3:17-21

1. _____ Godly Role Models

Philippians 3:17 ESV

17 Brothers, join in imitating me, and keep your eyes on those who walk according to the example you have in us.

1 Corinthians 4:16 ESV

16 I urge you, then, be imitators of me.

1 Corinthians 11:1 ESV

1 Be imitators of me, as I am of Christ.

God uses good Christian role models as a _____ for growth.

Tips to find someone you can imitate:

Look for someone a step or two beyond you in your walk, and watch them.

Ask to meet with them and pick their brains.

Be faithful and seek Jesus jointly.

2. _____ Corrupt Role Models

Philippians 3:18-19 ESV

18 For many, of whom I have often told you and now tell you even with tears, walk as enemies of the cross of Christ. 19 Their end is destruction, their god is their belly, and they glory in their shame, with minds set on earthly things.

1 Corinthians 15:33 ESV

33 Do not be deceived: "Bad company ruins good morals."

Philippians 3:18-19 ESV

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"Human self-righteousness denies the need for the saving, enabling grace of Christ. Human righteousness embraces the cruelest of Satan's lies, that a person can be righteous by keeping the law. If that were true, there would have been no need for the birth, life, death, and resurrection of Christ."

—Paul Tripp

<https://quotefancy.com/quote/1576535/Paul-David-Tripp-Human-self-righteousness-denies-the-need-for-the-saving-enabling-grace>

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Romans 16:17-18 ESV

17 I appeal to you, brothers, to watch out for those who cause divisions and create obstacles contrary to the doctrine that you have been taught; avoid them. 18 For such persons do not serve our Lord Christ, but their own appetites, and by smooth talk and flattery they deceive the hearts of the naive.

Don't follow people who count on their righteousness. Don't imitate them.

"Self-righteous legalism can masquerade as loving God's law."

—Paul Tripp

"Am I more offended by the sin of those around me, or am I more offended by the sin that is within me?"

—Tom Greentree

Who you imitate matters because their end is your end.

3. Godly Role Models focus on who they _____, who they're _____, and how they'll _____.

Philippians 3:20-21 ESV

20 But our citizenship is in heaven, and from it we await a Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ, 21 who will transform our lowly body to be like his glorious body, by the power that enables him even to subject all things to himself.

- A. Who they _____ — _____ of heaven
- B. Who they're _____ — transformed like _____
- C. How they'll get _____ — Jesus brings us _____

Philippians 2:6-11 ESV

6 who, though he was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped, 7 but emptied himself, by taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men. 8 And being found in human form, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross. 9 Therefore God has highly exalted him and bestowed on him the name that is above every name, 10 so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, 11 and every tongue *confess* that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

_____ those who _____ Christ produces _____,
even in death

“Do you know that if at birth I had been able to make one petition to my Creator, it would have been that I should be born blind?” John asked, “Why?” “[Fanny responded], Because, when I get to heaven, the first face that shall ever gladden my sight will be that of my Savior.”

—Pastor John Sweney

<https://enjoyingthejourney.org/hymn-history-my-savior-first-of-all/>

_____ those who _____ Christ produces _____,
even in death.

Discussion Questions – November 12, 2023:

Getting to Know You Questions:

1. What is one of the funniest or most interesting imitation situations you have come across.
2. Who are your primary influencers?
3. Who are the people in your life that you have the opportunity, and responsibility to be an example to?

Into the Bible Questions:

Read Philippians 3:17-21 ESV

17 Brothers, join in imitating me, and keep your eyes on those who walk according to the example you have in us. 18 For many, of whom I have often told you and now tell you even with tears, walk as enemies of the cross of Christ. 19 Their end is destruction, their god is their belly, and they glory in their shame, with minds set on earthly things. 20 But our citizenship is in heaven, and from it we await a Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ, 21 who will transform our lowly body to be like his glorious body, by the power that enables him even to subject all things to himself.

4. What was something from the passage or sermon that surprised you, helped you, confused you, or bothered you?
5. What does this passage tell us about God? People? Living to please God?
6. According to the passage, What does an enemy of the cross look like?
7. Ian listed some “self-righteous” traits:
lack of humility,
unwilling to listen,
blame others,
guilt others,
self-pity,

holding others to a standard you can't keep,
deep self-reliance,
lack of self-awareness.

Which ones do you struggle with, Why?

8. What habits do you have that you want your kids, and people around you to imitate? Which ones don't you want them to imitate?

9. What are the ultimate changes that will take place through the transformational power of Jesus in our lives?

10. What are some things you look forward to about Heaven? How can you have confidence that you will be there?

For Extra Study:

Read 1 Thessalonians 2:9-14

9 For you remember, brothers, our labor and toil: we worked night and day, that we might not be a burden to any of you, while we proclaimed to you the gospel of God. 10 You are witnesses, and God also, how holy and righteous and blameless was our conduct toward you believers. 11 For you know how, like a father with his children, 12 we exhorted each one of you and encouraged you and charged you to walk in a manner worthy of God, who calls you into his own kingdom and glory.

13 And we also thank God constantly for this, that when you received the word of God, which you heard from us, you accepted it not as the word of men but as what it really is, the word of God, which is at work in you believers. 14 For you, brothers, became imitators of the churches of God in Christ Jesus that are in Judea. For you suffered the same things from your own countrymen as they did from the Jews,

11. From this passage, what were some ways Paul was an example for the Thessalonians?

12. How did the Thessalonians imitate other Christians?

13. How could learning from others' suffering help you deal with suffering?

14. What do you find challenging about trusting God?

15. What needs to change in your life so that you can live this out?

16. Jot down any insights, questions, or key observations.

Application Questions:

What are some of the “end goals” you have for your life? Do they match Jesus’ end goals for your life?

What would change in your life if you viewed yourself as a citizen of heaven whom Jesus is changing?

If you were to look for a spiritual mentor or someone to imitate, what characteristics would you look for?

Ian shared that when looking for someone to imitate, you should 1. Look for someone a step or two beyond you in your walk, and watch them 2. Ask to meet with them and pick their brains, 3. be faithful and seek Jesus jointly. What is a step you could take to accomplish that, this week?

What would change in your life if you were responsible for being an example to everyone you came in contact with?

How can we encourage each other to count on Jesus?