

# Be Imitators of God

Pastor Ethan L. Kerns – 02/27/2022



## I. Respectful Imitation

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**Key Truth:** To Be the Church is to Be Imitators of God.

## II. How to Be the Church

Ephesians 5:1-2

v. 1 Be Imitators of God

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**Point:** Be Kind and Forgive with a Tender Heart

v. 2 Walk in Love

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**Point:** Let's Give Up Our Lives for Each Other

## III. A Picture of God-Glorifying Imitation

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**Mid-Week Devotional** (Take time this week to pray & respond to the following)

What does it mean to *be* the church? For some, the answer may have been two-fold: to be the church was to be a Christian and to be present in a church on any given Sunday. To a degree, this answer is correct. Christians certainly do comprise the church as it is biblically defined, and Christians are expected (so far as they are able) to be in physical fellowship with one another. But to truly be the church involves more than heart-change and presence with fellow believers. It also involves active imitation of God.

To imitate someone is to be like them. For instance, if we respect the way someone acts or speaks, we might choose to act or speak like them. Depending on the quality of the influence and the relationship, this can be either a good thing or a bad thing. Unfortunately, one of the great dangers in the Western church today is imitation of the worst kind. To gain followers, acclaim or power, Christians may be tempted to turn from imitating God to imitating those who have had worldly success. Capitulation to this temptation certainly damages the witness of the church and keeps Christians from delighting in the virtues that God has modeled for them.

Take some time this week to consider the following: who or what are you imitating? Is this helping you further the gospel of Christ or is it hindering it? What would it look like for you imitate God this week? (If you need help with answering this question, start by looking at Ephesians 4:25-5:21.)