

### Imitating God Eph. 5:1-2; Gen. 50:15-21









*"Imitation is the highest form of flattery" "You are what you imitate"* 

Parents, friends, celebrities, athletes, teachers







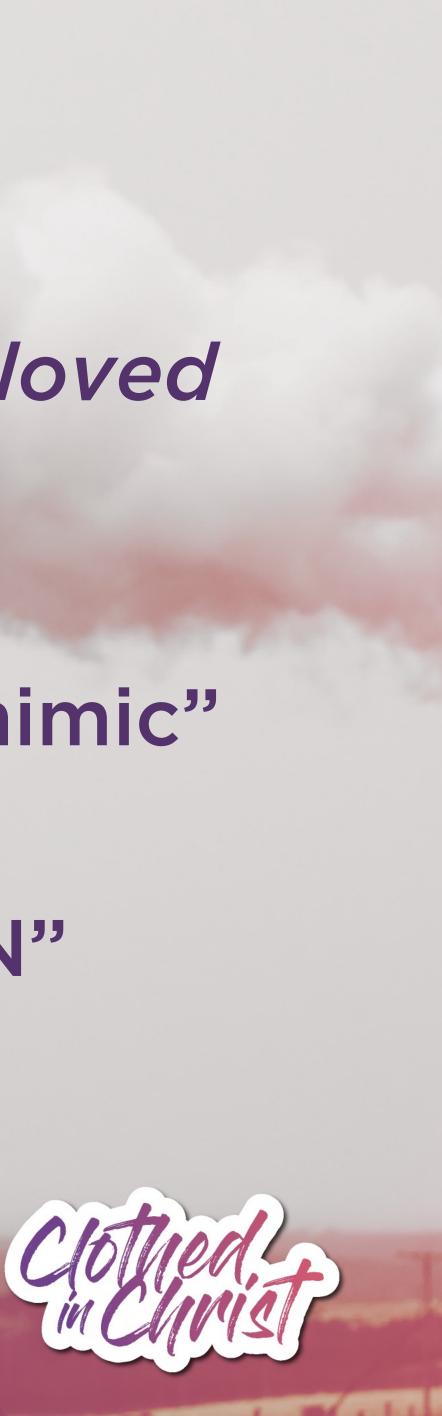
### • Eph. 5:1-2 "Therefore, be imitators of God, as beloved

children; ..."

### \*Greek: "Mimetes" from which we derive "mimic"

### "Consistent lifestyle; REPRODUCTION"





 Eph. 5:1-2 "...and walk in love, just as Christ also loved you and gave Himself up for us,..."

### \*Self-sacrifice is resisted/rejected by the West

-We are Individualistic



## -We are not Community-minded



### Imitating God: It's not about me!

### • DYING TO SELF

### \* Mark 14:32-36 Jesus prays at Gethsemane

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\*1 John 2:6 "The one who says he abides in Him ought himself to walk in the same manner as He walked"

"I don't want to. But it's not about Me"

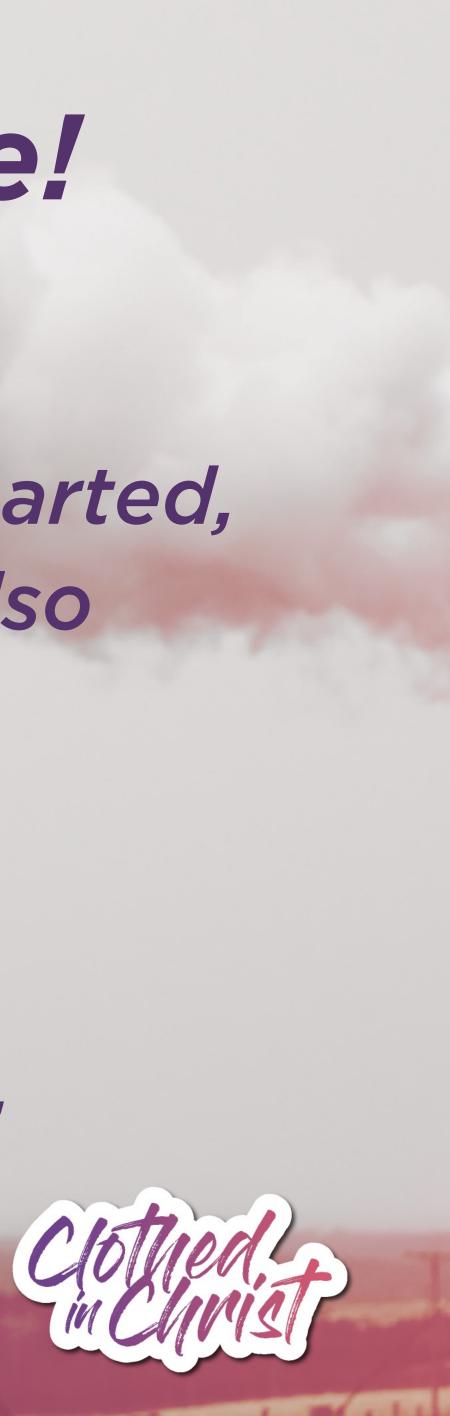


### Imitating God: It's not about me! OTHERS COME FIRST \*Eph. 4:32 "Be kind to one another, tender-hearted, forgiving each other, just as God in Christ has also forgiven you"

\* Matt. 18:23-35 The Unmerciful Servant

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### "I don't want to. But it's not about Me"



### Imitating God: It's not about me! YOUR LIFE IS NOT TO BE GRASPED

# example to follow in His steps"

\* Gen. 50:15-21 Joseph and his brothers

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\*1 Pe. 2:212 "For you have been called for this purpose, since Christ also suffered for you, leaving you an

"I don't want to. But it's not about Me"



 An encouragement: to yourSELF as well as others!

Christ Jesus has made me his own" Phil. 3:12

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# None of us has "arrived"... it's OK! Be gracious

### "Not that I have already obtained this or am already perfect, but I press on to make it my own, because



