

## **FOLLOW THE LEADER –Pt.1**

Back when I was a kid, we didn't have the video games, cell phones, or social media and most of the time we actually played outside games – baseball, fb, tag, hide & seek, kick ball, and follow the leader

It wasn't difficult – you watched what the leader did and you did what they did

Church, what I'm going to talk about isn't a game, Paul says it's a way of life

**1 Cor 11:1 NKJV Be ye followers of me, even as I also am of Christ.**

**The Passion- I want you to pattern your lives after me, just as I pattern mine after Christ**

**NLT- And you should imitate me, just as I imitate Christ**

God has given us positive and negative examples throughout His word for us to learn from

**KJV Be ye followers of me even as I also am of Christ**

We are to follow the Leader! That's Christ!

Wow! That's a short but very powerful statement humbly declared by Paul to the Corinthians under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit

Paul says to follow or imitate me

**1 Cor 11:1 calls us to be imitators**

This statement is not arrogant as long as you don't disconnect from the second part of the verse

Paul was saying we're following Jesus, I will demonstrate following Him in a way that if you follow my example, you will actually be following Jesus

But I don't know if I can live in such a way that's worthy to be imitated...

But this is what we're called to do

As a Christian you don't get to opt out of being a disciple maker simply by living in disobedience to His Word

Read and meditate on that verse for just a moment – it's not about what you have to offer, but what Christ demonstrates through you. We are followers of Christ!

**Gal 2:20 NKJV I have been crucified with Christ; it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me; and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself for me**

**Amp- For I have been crucified with Christ [that is, in Him I have shared His crucifixion]; it is no longer I who live but Christ lives in me. The life I now live in the body I live by faith [by adhering to, relying on, and completely trusting] in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself up for me**

This is for every Christian whether you adhere to it or not, our purpose is to imitate Christ and follow His instruction in **Matt 4:19 – Follow Me and I will make you fishers of men**

We should want to show others what following Jesus looks like

Do you want to live a life worthy of imitation?

Think about that statement – what would the followers of Jesus look like around you?

If they were imitating you, would they be following Jesus?

Would their thoughts, actions, words, and lifestyles be honoring Jesus if they followed your leadership?

Are you following the leader?

**1 Cor 11:1 encourages us to live worthy of imitation**

**Matt 28:19-20 NKJV Go <sup>[4]</sup>therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, <sup>20</sup>teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, *even to the end of the age.*" <sup>[d]</sup>Amen.**

Disciple making is what Jesus called us to do, we literally show others what it means to be a follower of Christ

Will we rise to the occasion, we have the opportunity to live a life worthy of imitation and by following our lives, they would be following Jesus

In ourselves and in our flesh our lives aren't worthy of imitation, but through the power of the Holy Spirit, He makes us like Christ and He will be seen through us

**Gal 5:16-25 NKJV I say then: Walk in the Spirit, and you shall not fulfill the lust of the flesh. <sup>17</sup> For the flesh lusts against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh; and these are contrary to one another, so that you do not do the things that you wish. <sup>18</sup> But if you are led by the Spirit, you are not under the law.**

**<sup>19</sup> Now the works of the flesh are evident, which are: [d]adultery, [e]fornication, uncleanness, lewdness, <sup>20</sup> idolatry, sorcery, hatred, contentions, jealousies, outbursts of wrath, selfish ambitions, dissensions, heresies, <sup>21</sup> envy, [f]murders, drunkenness, revelries, and the like; of which I tell you beforehand, just as I also told *you* in time past, that those who practice such things will not inherit the kingdom of God.**

**<sup>22</sup> But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, <sup>23</sup> [g]entleness, self-control. Against such there is no law. <sup>24</sup> And those *who are* Christ's have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires. <sup>25</sup> If we live in the Spirit, let us also walk in the Spirit.**

We must not kid ourselves, you will be known by your fruit. Only the Holy Spirit can produce the fruit of the Spirit, not by our own efforts or hard work

Paul said imitate me, just as I also imitate Christ

**Gal 5:25 If we live in the Spirit, let us also walk in the Spirit**

The Greek word for walk is to walk in line with, to walk in the Spirit, is to walk along the path He lays down for us

Do you get it today? The Holy Spirit was sent to be our helper for what? To make us more like Jesus so that when others follow me they are actually following Jesus our leader!

Holy Spirit, my prayer is that CFA will truly desire to follow our leader Jesus and imitate all He is!

Will you allow Him to make your life worthy of imitation?