

~IMITATORS (83)

[English, impersonators, impressionists, copycats]

- Paul repeatedly counsels Christians to become **imitators** of him, just as he is of Christ, who is a fine **imitator** of God.
- I entreat you, therefore, become **imitators** of me. (1 Corinthians 4:16)
- Paul now shows that his example is also in imitation of Christ's fine example, and not out of his own thinking. Thus he establishes a general principle, that good examples are the ones we must follow closely to fulfill the Law.
- This also was mirrored in the bread of the face, the showbread, that was kept in the Most Holy compartment of the tabernacle, and later the temple. These twelve loaves represented the fine examples of faithful men in all twelve tribes of Israel, whom the priest could observe, and then partake of, after thoroughly contemplating their fine examples of faith.
- Become **imitators** of me, even as I am of Christ. (1 Corinthians 11:1)
- Paul now encourages them to become **imitators** of God, now that they have been chosen for adoption through Christ, and to work at becoming his beloved children. This is the way to put on the new personality, for it is God's personality.
- Therefore, become **imitators** of God, as beloved children. (Ephesians 5:1)
- Paul then asks the Philippians to use him as a fine example, and to **imitate** his faith. Also they should keep their eyes fixed upon others, who walk in the same footsteps as Paul has made in their congregation, by setting a fine example.
- Unitedly become **imitators** of me, brothers, and keep your eye on those who are walking in a way that accords with the example you have in us. (Philippians 3:17)

- Therefore they became **imitators** of Paul and those with him, and through them of the Lord himself. For they accepted the word under tribulation, with great joy, through the outpouring of the Holy Spirit among them.
- And you became **imitators** of us and of the Lord, seeing that you accepted the word under much tribulation with joy of Holy Spirit. **(1 Thessalonians 1:6)**
- He now commends them for their becoming **imitators** of the congregation of anointed Christians in Judea, who are also in union with Christ Jesus, for they willingly began suffering at the hands of their own countrymen there in Thessalonica, the same kinds of things, that those in Judea were, prior to them, suffering at the hands of the Jews there.
- For you became **imitators**, brothers, of the congregations of God that are in Judea in union with Christ Jesus, because you also began suffering at the hands of your own countrymen the same things as they also are suffering at the hands of the Jews. **(1 Thessalonians 2:14)**
- Paul does not want them to become sluggish, in their service to God, but rather, to become **imitators** of those, who through the exercise of both patience and faith, actually inherit the promises.
- In order, that you may not become sluggish, but be **imitators** of those who through faith and patience inherit the promises. **(Hebrews 6:12)**