

Message Series: Plastic

Message Title: Imitations

Key Scripture:

Philippians 3:17 ESV

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

Message Summary

We were made to imitate. We will either copy the world around us and become a cheap knock off, or imitate the one who made us and become secure in our identity in Him. Paul calls us to imitate him as he imitates Christ, by allowing Him to transform us from the inside out, and giving us an identity that is secure even through the hardest of challenges.

How does applying this message affect our:

Fellowship – experiencing healthy relationships with other people

Paul says 'join in imitating me' – this isn't a personal thing, we come together to become more like Christ. How this week can we help each other to imitate Christ.

Discipleship – growing in Christ both in thought and deed

What do you put your spiritual value in? Paul says he counts everything as garbage compared to knowing Jesus as the Lord. What areas of our lives do we need to allow Jesus to be Lord in?

Ministry – Discovering and using our God-given gifts and abilities

Paul calls the church to keep their eyes on those who walk according to the example he has set. In any ministry or serving position we should be setting an example, not of how to do a task, but of how to look like Jesus. How can you use your gifts and abilities to help set a pattern for others to follow?

Evangelism – Reaching out and sharing the love of Christ with unbelievers

Now you know about the clash between a mimetic and poietic world view, what reasons would you give for holding a mimetic view – how might you try and explain to someone why you believe there is something/someone that we are called to imitate?

Worship – Surrendering our heart and life to Christ on an ongoing basis

Paul's identity is secure even in the most difficult of times. Even though he is in prison, he says in chapter 3 that he is still pushing on and straining forward to become more like Jesus. Do we find it easy to stay surrendered to Christ when our circumstances are tough?