

IMITATORS

of God

THE BASICS: SOUL CARE FOUNDATIONS

1 KINGS 19:1-18

Therefore be imitators of God, as beloved children. And walk in love, as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us, a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God.

Ephesians 5:1-2

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Elijah failed in the very point at which he was strongest, and that is where most men fail. In Scripture, it is the wisest man who proves himself to be the greatest fool; just as the meekest man, Moses, spoke hasty and bitter words.

Abraham failed in his faith, and Job in his patience; so, he who was the most courageous of all men, fled from an angry woman.

Charles Spurgeon

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If I am to imitate God in caring for others, I will...
...consider their needs holistically (v. 5–8)

Is it not amazing: though we know the power of the Holy Spirit can be ours, we still ape the world's wisdom, trust its forms of publicity and its noise, and imitate its ways of manipulating men!

If we try to influence the world by using its methods, we are doing the Lord's work in the flesh.

If we put activity, even good activity, at the center rather than trusting God, then there may be the power of the world, but we will lack the power of the Holy Spirit.

*Francis Schaeffer,
No Little People*

If I am to imitate God in caring for others, I will...
...consider their needs holistically (v. 5–8)

The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want. He makes me lie down in green pastures. He leads me beside still waters. He restores my soul.

Psalm 23:1–3

Come to me, all who labor and are heavy laden,
and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you,
and learn from me, for I am gentle and lowly in
heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For
my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.

Matthew 11:28–30

If I am to imitate God in caring for others, I will...
...listen to their story (v. 9–10)

If I am to imitate God in caring for others, I will...
...point them toward God (v. 11–14)

Brothers, if anyone is caught in any transgression, you who are spiritual should restore him in a spirit of gentleness.

Keep watch on yourself, lest you too be tempted. Bear one another's burdens, and so fulfill the law of Christ.

Galatians 6:1-2

...from childhood you have been acquainted with the sacred writings, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus.

All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, equipped for every good work.

2 Timothy 3:15–17

The sufficiency of Scripture means that we don't need any more special revelation. We don't need any more inspired, inerrant words.

In the Bible God has given us, we have the perfect standard for judging all other knowledge. All other knowledge stands under the judgment of the Bible even when it serves the Bible.

John Piper

If I am to imitate God in caring for others, I will...
...point them toward God (v. 11–14)

How Scripture speaks to us:

- It encourages us in our suffering

How Scripture speaks to us:

- It convicts us of our sin while holding out grace

How Scripture speaks to us:

- It gives us a sense of our intrinsic value, not because of our achievements or special qualities, but as those created in God's image

How Scripture speaks to us:

- It offers principles of how we should conduct ourselves in business and in our work or with our finances

How Scripture speaks to us:

- It outlines how we should treat our spouses and how we should raise our kids

How Scripture speaks to us:

- It speaks to our mission—giving us “built-in” meaning and purpose

How Scripture speaks to us:

- It provides a clear understanding of the security we have in Christ and his righteousness, so that we can stop striving and rest in him! We belong to him!

If I am to imitate God in caring for others, I will...
...point them toward God (v. 11–14)

If I am to imitate God in caring for others, I will...
...encourage them to get back on their feet
(v. 15–18)

If you have raced with men on foot, and they
have wearied you, how will you compete
with horses?

Jeremiah 12:5a

Every step of the way we are accompanied by the God who, in Christ Jesus, will never un-love us, un-adopt us, un-redeem us.

No matter what we've done, no matter what fallout from our actions has decimated our lives, no matter how much spite or malice, grief or pain, bitterness or despair we feel, we have a God who is on our side.

He's walked this path with countless people before us. Now he walks it with us. And there is no better companion than the God who was once called the friend of sinners.

Chad Bird

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