

## The Wisdom of Imitation (2) - Becoming Like Jesus

Are we people who have merely the form of godliness but have no power? If we have never embraced Christ's new way of thinking about life, we have no real power.

Scripture(s): Ephesians 5:15-21

Remember this - Christ followers embrace \_\_\_\_\_ thinking about their lives.

I. The first action we take as true imitators of God is using wisdom to make our \_\_\_\_\_. Wise people have their eyes open to the world that is around them and choose faithful \_\_\_\_\_.

1 Corinthians 14:20 Brethren, do not be children in your thinking; yet in evil be infants, but in your thinking be mature.

Matthew 10:16 Behold, I send you forth as sheep in the midst of wolves: be ye therefore wise as serpents, and harmless as doves.

II. The second action we take as true imitators of God is thinking through the lens of God's \_\_\_\_\_. It is when we become \_\_\_\_\_ about God's will to redeem that sin, regret, and pain take over.

Colossians 4:5-6 5 Conduct yourselves with wisdom toward outsiders, making the most of the opportunity. 6 Let your speech always be with grace, as though seasoned with salt, so that you will know how you should respond to each person.

Galatians 1:3 Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ, 4 who gave Himself for our sins so that He might rescue us from this present evil age, according to the will of our God and Father, 5 to whom be the glory forevermore. Amen.

2 Peter 2:12 But these, like unreasoning animals, born as creatures of instinct to be captured and killed, reviling where they have no knowledge, will in the destruction of those creatures also be destroyed,... 19 promising them freedom while they themselves are slaves of corruption; for by what a man is overcome, by this he is enslaved.

III. The third action we take as true imitators of God is be filled with the \_\_\_\_\_. Spirit-filled actions are consistent with the \_\_\_\_\_ and character of God.

Galatians 5:16-23 16 But I say, walk by the Spirit, and you will not carry out the desire of the flesh. 17 For the flesh sets its desire against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh; for these are in opposition to one another, so that you may not do the things that you please... 22 But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, 23 gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law.

IV. The fourth action we take as true imitators of God is \_\_\_\_\_ each other. We trust each other enough to submit because of Jesus, not because of \_\_\_\_\_.

1 John 2:12-14 12 I am writing to you, little children, because your sins have been forgiven you for His name's sake. 13 I am writing to you, fathers, because you know Him who has been from the beginning. I am writing to you, young men, because you have overcome the evil one. I have written to you, children, because you know the Father. 14 I have written to you, fathers, because you know Him who has been from the beginning. I have written to you, young men, because you are strong, and the word of God abides in you, and you have overcome the evil one.

Our challenge: Embrace God's way of \_\_\_\_\_ as a follower of Jesus.

March 23, 2025

"Crown Him with Many  
Crowns" 161

"Fairest Lord Jesus" 176

"Goodness of God"

\* Pastoral Prayer & Time in  
the Word \*

"Without Him" 300