

IMITATORS GOD'S CHARACTER

Ephesians 5:1-2



THE BATTLE IS REAL FOLKS

- George Gallup contends that fewer than ten percent of evangelical Christians could be called deeply committed. The majority who profess Christianity do not know basic Christian teachings and **do not act differently** because of their Christian experience. As a Lutheran pastor put it, “Ninety percent of our parishes across the country require less commitment than the local Kiwanis club” (Wayne Pohl, *Leadership* [Winter, 1982], p. 95).



TO IMITATE SOMEONE WE MUST:

- Be close.
- Follow.
- Spend time.
- Willing to change.



CHARACTER

- “Character is who we are when think no one is watching.”
- “Be more concerned with your **character** than your reputation, because your **character** is what you really are, while your reputation is merely what others think you are.”
- “Nearly all men can stand adversity, but if you want to test a man's character, give him power.” — [Abraham Lincoln](#)
- “Whoever is careless with the truth in small matters cannot be trusted with important matters” — [Albert Einstein](#)



THREE AREAS TO PATTERN AFTER:

- 1. Our hands – our behavior. Sacrifice and suffering. Obey his commands.
- 2. Our head - our beliefs. What you believe determines what you do.
- 3. Our hearts - our real beliefs. Becomes revelation to us. Convinced of it. Shapes character. Who we are inside.
- A person's character is the sum of his or her disposition, thoughts, intentions, desires, and actions.



1. NEED TO UNDERSTAND THE **FATHER**

- Ex 34:6-7
- “The LORD passed before him and proclaimed, “The LORD, the LORD, a God merciful and gracious, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love and faithfulness, 7 keeping steadfast love for thousands, forgiving iniquity and transgression and sin....”



2. NEED TO UNDERSTAND OUR SONSHIP

- John 1:12
- “But to all who did receive him, who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God,”



IMITATING GOD'S CHARACTER IN LIFE

- - Be born again from above.
- - Be filled with the Holy Spirit.
- - Be people of the word. Eat it daily. Memorize it. Love it.
- - Follow good examples.
- - Come into submission in a healthy local church family, learn the pattern Paul talks about.

