

COPYCAT
-Ryan Parsons-

When I was growing up, “copycat” was as bad as any curse word someone could utter at you on the playground. If you got labeled a “copycat,” you were either a cheater in school or trying to mimic someone whom you thought was cool. Either way, it was bad!

1 John 2:3-6

3 And by this we know that we have come to know him, if we keep his commandments. **4** Whoever says “I know him” but does not keep his commandments is a liar, and the truth is not in him, **5** but whoever keeps his word, in him truly the love of God is perfected. By this we may know that we are in him: **6** **whoever says he abides in him ought to walk in the same way in which he walked.**

John, one of the original “Sons of Thunder,” learned a thing or two in his time with Jesus about being a true disciple (pupil, student, apprentice). In 1 John 2, he offers some sage advice: if one wants to say “I know Jesus” and “I abide in him,” he must be a “copycat.” We aren’t talking, however, about simplistic and heartless mimicking of actions. John, in the writing of the Gospel, shares Jesus’ exhortations about this matter:

John 14:15, 21, 23

15 “If you love me, you will keep my commandments.

21 Whoever has my commandments and keeps them, he it is who loves me. And he who loves me will be loved by my Father, and I will love him and manifest myself to him.”

23 Jesus answered him, “If anyone loves me, he will keep my word, and my Father will love him, and we will come to him and make our home with him.

“Knowing” and “abiding” point to the love of a disciple for his teacher and a faithful obedience to his teaching, commandments, and example. It is this adoration that leads to an overwhelming drive to be like him in every way. Moreover, it becomes the evidence of our devotion to his tutelage.

I guess it isn’t so bad to be a “copycat” of Jesus. May all our devotion be focused on emulating the example of our Lord!

Keep Studying,
Ryan