

## IMITATION

If you look at childhood development, one of the most significant components is imitation. Expressions, motor function, and language development are all deeply rooted in copying the example, and repeated observation is necessary to mimic an action. At our house, we use the well-known phrase “Monkey see, monkey do!”

But it doesn't stop with childhood. As we mature, our development is never autonomous. We continue to imitate for the rest of our lives, albeit less than when we were small children.

We must ask ourselves what have we imitated and what will we imitate? Everything that we have picked up over the years isn't beneficial. In those instances, it is vital to stop and relearn. On the other hand, when we have picked up something good, repetition is vital to solidifying it in our lives. May we not just exist as creatures of habit who don't evaluate ourselves for health, effectiveness, and faithfulness.

Scripture has some words of wisdom on this subject.

### **3 John 11**

*Beloved, do not imitate evil but imitate good. Whoever does good is from God; whoever does evil has not seen God.*

### **Hebrews 13:7**

*Remember your leaders, those who spoke to you the word of God. Consider the outcome of their way of life, and imitate their faith.*

### **1 Corinthians 11:1**

*Be imitators of me, as I am of Christ.*

As we continue our journey of growth in Christ, may we always take Paul's words to the Philippian church to heart.

### **Philippians 4:8-9**

*8 Finally, brothers, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence, if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things. 9 What you have learned and received and heard and seen in me—practice these things, and the God of peace will be with you.*

Shalom,  
Ryan