**Sermon Notes**

**“The Imitation of Christ”**

**Ephesians 5:1–2**

**1 Be imitators of God, therefore, as dearly loved children 2 and live a life of love, just as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us as a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God.**

*Who do you admire? Who have you sought to imitate?*

1.

2.

3.

Why?

We admire those who \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ in a powerful and compelling way.

**Genesis 1:27**

**27 So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them.**

**Imitators of God**

1 Be imitators of God, therefore, as dearly loved children 2 and live a life of love, just as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us as a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God.

1 John 3:16
16 This is how we know what love is: Jesus Christ laid down his life for us. And we ought to lay down our lives for our brothers and sisters.

**Imitation vs. Mimicry**

Imitation is the act of taking on the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ of someone.

Mimicry is the act of \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ of someone.

**Philippians 3:10**

**“I want to know Christ and the power of is resurrection…”**

Questions for Discussion:

1. What new or fresh-to-me insight did you gain from this message?

2. Who in your life images God’s character and goodness to you in an especially powerful way? How could you reach out to them and let them know?

3. Did you find Jeff’s distinction between imitation and mimicry helpful? Why or why not?

4. How does the distinction between imitation and mimicry help you reframe what it means to follow Jesus?

5. Read Philippians 3:4-11. What temptations/pitfalls is Paul confronting in these verses? What are modern-day expressions of these temptations for Christians?

6. What is one step you could take this week to deepen your imitation of Christ?