

# LIVE OAK CHURCH

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## The Essentials Being Imitators of the Lord

June 21, 2026

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Psalm 1:1-8; Ephesians 5:1-2

### Who Do You Look Like Who Do You Sound Like Who Do You Act Like

- I. **The reality and rationale of imitation**
  - A. In music, there have been imitators
  - B. In sports, there have been imitators
  - C. In cinema, there have been imitators
  - D. In business, there have been imitators
  - E. We imitate those who influence us
- II. **The Bible declares/endorsees imitation**
  - A. Ephesians 5:1 - "Be imitators of God"
  - B. 1 Corinthians 11:1 - "Be imitators of me as I also am of Christ"
  - C. 1 Thessalonians 1:6 - "You became imitators of us and the Lord"
- III. **So what does that look like?**
  - A. God demonstrates love
    - a. Love that gives guidance
    - b. Love that gives grace

- c. Love that gives goodness
    - d. Love that is generous
    - e. Love that governs
    - f. Love that guards
    - g. Love that grapples
  - B. We are to be imitators of our heavenly Father
- IV. **Why is this essential**
  - A. Our children are wired to know what our heavenly Father is like
  - B. Their first tangible example of love is from us
  - C. This is why the Bible says, "Be imitators of God"
  - D. This is why the Bible says not to walk in the counsel of the wicked, or the path of the sinner, or the seat of the scoffer
- V. **So how does that happen? What does it take to imitate the Lord?**
  - A. A motivation, a desire, to influence our children to the love and salvation of Jesus the Messiah
  - B. Ten areas that we all need to be an influence to our children and be an imitator of our Lord
    1. Rebirth - Spiritual life
      - a. To be convinced
      - b. To be certain
      - c. To confess

- d. Jesus is Lord. God raised Him from the dead
- e. Jesus is the Messiah who gives eternal life
- f. Nicodemus' encounter
- 2. Repentance
  - a. Turning from things that bring us down.
  - b. Areas that need work
- 3. Recovery
  - a. Areas that are broken
  - b. Areas that need healing
  - c. It's being teachable
  - d. It's being humble
  - e. It's being willing to surrender
- 4. Responsibility
  - a. Providing
  - b. Protecting
  - c. Blessing
  - d. Boundaries
  - e. Loving
  - f. Listening
  - g. Laughing
- 5. Rewarding
  - a. Noticing
  - b. Giving
  - c. Blessing
  - d. God rewards and blesses
- 6. Reality

- a. Truth breaks through
- b. Thy Word is truth
- c. Knowing the Word
- 7. Seeking what is right
  - a. Legal
  - b. Moral
  - c. Ethical
  - d. Biblical
- 8. Researching/growing in knowledge and wisdom
- 9. Reasonable/wisdom
- 10. Reflection
  - a. Being the husband
  - b. Being the dad
  - c. Being the disciple

**VI. Who you imitate determines how you lead**

- A. How you lead determines success or regret
- B. Determines the direction of your family

**Your faith and leadership are essential to life**