

Volume 3, Day 32: Heart and Soul

The Apostle Paul encourages us to be imitators of Jesus Christ. Does this really make sense? Is it possible? We understand the concept, but we also know that we would be poor imitators of either one. So, can we comply?

We think of imitation as acting or talking like someone else. The theater is an example. We watch play actors imitate the characters of the play. We watch the story unfold as it were in real time in front of us. But the real story happened long ago. The better the imitations the greater the reviews are. Since the real players about which the play is written are imperfect, this works out just fine.

However, the real character in Paul's account is too perfect to be imitated. And since the objective is not achievable, we lay down the script. To be sure, there are plenty of scriptures to inform us that we cannot do a good job of imitating the perfect words and actions of Christ. So, instead of following the script in our hand, we grovel in the shadows of guilt and shame repeatedly repenting.

But, wait! We have an '**over study**' within us who can play the part flawlessly. The most important aspect of this dilemma is to consider that Jesus' clarified imitation in John 13 when He told His disciples the real objective. This is also the testimony of faith in Jesus. He said, "... Love each other as much as I love you!" The truth is that the best play acting is that which reflects the **heart and soul** of the original character!

So, **be the best understudy** of the living Christ's Holy Spirit within you and you will not only have the heart and soul that Love Like Jesus Loves. And God's love always expresses itself powerfully like it did in Jesus!

ENGAGING God -- Bob Clarkson