

If Christians Imitated You

By: David Burruss

Paul told his fellow Christians in Corinth, "I urge you, imitate me...Imitate me..." (1 Corinthians 4:16; 11:1). He told his fellow Christians in Philippi, "Brethren, join in following my example...The things which you learned and received and heard and saw in me, these do" (Philippians 3:17; 4:9). What would the early church have looked like if everyone had fully imitated the apostle Paul's life? How fervent would their evangelism have been? How motivating! How committed? How generous? How diligent?

Let's switch the roles for a second and make this blatantly personal now. Imagine for a second that you urged your home congregation's members to imitate me at the beginning of this year. Brothers, follow my lead and join together. The things that you observe and hear about me are true. At the conclusion of the year, how would your home congregation appear if every member actually imitated you?

If every member of your home congregation imitated you, how evangelistic would it be? How many pamphlets would the church have distributed? How many intensely religious dialogues with family members and coworkers would have occurred? How many friends were invited to worship? How many sermons and article links were shared? What number of Bible studies would have been offered and held?

If everyone had imitated you, how many baptisms would have taken place?

If every member of your home congregation had imitated you, how encouraging would it be? How many cards would have been sent via mail? How many calls would have been placed? How many text messages or emails would have been exchanged? How many house visits would have been conducted? How many hugs and warm handshakes would have been given? How many meals would they have eaten together? If everyone imitated you, how many church members would have been individually reached and encouraged?

You get the picture, right? If everyone imitated you, how passionate would this year's worship songs have been? If everyone imitated you, how self-sacrificing would the whole contribution have been? If everyone followed your example, how many chapters of the Bible would have been read and studied personally over the course of the year?

The Lord's church does not require elaborate activities to win over unbelievers, uplift other Christians, enhance our worship, encourage Christians to read their Bibles, etc. No! All that is required are Christians who are completely devoted to Jesus Christ! Because he was devoted to "imitating Christ" every day, Paul could declare, "Imitate me." The question is, are you?

Sinners are welcomed at North Main church of Christ. If you're struggling, have any needs, or are simply seeking a loving Christian family, we invite you to come and see us.