

April 28, 2019

Ephesians 5:1-2; Galatians 4:19

“Imitate The Master”

INTRODUCTION

1. BE IMITATORS OF GOD

For discussion in small groups and personal reflection:

1. Read again Matthew 7:21-23. How does this make you feel? Replace the words “I never knew you” with “I don’t recognize you.” Compare this with Matthew 10:25 and Luke 6:40. So in what sense are we to BE LIKE the Master? What’s at stake?
2. What does it mean to be a disciple of Jesus? Do the words “apprentice” “student” “practitioner” help you define the word “disciple?” How so?
3. Read Galatians 4:19. Take it apart a little bit. What is Paul meaning by saying he’s in “the pains of child birth” and what is he laboring so hard for? Why does it matter?
4. What does “Christ formed in you” look like on an average day? Do you agree that this may be the very definition for what it means to be Christian; “Christ formed in us?”
5. Why does Paul remind the Ephesians and the Galatians that they are “dearly loved children?” How does this motivate us to press in to deeper discipleship?
6. Our living life “as Christ loved us” becomes like the fragrant offerings of the old Temple and Tabernacle. How does that motivate us to press in to deeper discipleship?
7. What do you make of the statement, “Grace is opposed to earning not effort?”
8. What do you do now to grow in your discipleship, to see “Christ actually formed in you?”
9. Can the apprentice/disciple ever say “I’ll do it my way? What right do you have to tell me what to do?” Why or why not?