

AN IMITATION LIFE

3 John 11 ... "Beloved, do not imitate what is evil, but what is good. He who does good is of God, but he who does evil has not seen God."

In our previous devotional we shared 3 John verse 2. Today we look at verse 11. I want you to see that even the rarely mentioned parts of the Bible have valuable instruction for us.

Children grow up watching the adults around them. They study their parents. The things they do, the words they speak, and the behaviors they demonstrate. Children study their school teachers, neighbors, the parents of other children, and community leaders. They study their pastors and priests and others in the church. Children are like sponges. They soak up and capture everything they see and hear for later use. As a parent, you may not be aware of this until your child one day says something or demonstrates a behavior that he or she has heard from you, or seen you do. If it's a good word or good behavior, you may be proud of your child. But if it is something bad, you will feel angry and embarrassed.

Many aspects of the Christian life are not taught to us like teachers teach the alphabet. We learn much from observing other believers, and even more from studying the lives of Christ, his apostles, and other godly characters in the Bible. Our verse today instructs us to "imitate" others. That, of course, means others who are godly. It also warns us to not imitate the evil behaviors of others. The verse reminds us that goodness is a trait of people who belong to God, but that people who do evil things are not part of God's kingdom or family. You might point out to me that there are people in the world who do not profess faith in God who do good things. There are certainly many people who try to do good even though they are not of God. However, "good" in the context of the Bible is a reference to righteous behavior, not simply sharing with the poor, helping old ladies cross the street, and being honest. Righteousness is solely the character of God and is only achievable by men who are obedient to God and accept the salvation of Christ's death.

I pray that you will find Christ an example worth imitating. I promise you, there is no one better to imitate.

Copyright © 2019 Datu Wali Mission Foundation