

A HERITAGE OF TRUTH

“Your testimonies are my heritage forever;
for they are the joy of my heart.”

Psalm 119:111

THEME TEN: God's Purpose for His Children

Truth #6

QUESTION

What about Christ must we emulate?

ANSWER

His holiness, His love, and His good works

MEMORY VERSE

Ephesians 2:10

For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them. ESV

SUGGESTED HYMN

“I Will Follow”

Available in Majesty Hymns

FURTHER STUDY

A Paradox

Imitate God 1 Corinthians 11:1; Ephesians 5:1
Do Not Imitate God Genesis 3:4-5; Isaiah 14:14

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- This week's truth introduces us to one of the paradoxes of Scripture. We are called to emulate God while at the same time warned not to make ourselves like God. On the one hand, Paul exhorts us to be imitators of God (Ephesians 5:1). On the other hand, the very first temptation in the Garden of Eden involved Adam and Eve's becoming "like God" (Genesis 3:5). How are we to resolve this apparent contradiction? One way is to consider the question in terms of God's incommunicable and communicable attributes. We cannot and should not imitate the former, but we must mimic the latter.
- God's *incommunicable* attributes are those characteristics of God that He does not share with His creation. For example, God is independent, unchangeable, and sovereign. None of these things are true of His creation, not even of us who are created in His image. Think through the attributes of God. What other attributes would be categorized as incommunicable? Since these attributes of God are not shared with humanity, should we attempt to be like God in these ways? Why or why not?
- God's *communicable* attributes are those characteristics of God that He shares with humanity. For example, God is loving, wise, and merciful. Since He has shared these with us, we can and must imitate God in His communicable attributes. Think through the attributes of God again. What other perfections would be categorized as communicable? How can we grow in our mimicking of these characteristics of God?

A Heritage of Truth is a set of 120 studies designed to assist our entire congregation—and our families in particular—to explore the ways and works of God so that they grow up into Christ, worship God and enjoy Him forever. Questions and answers are provided by Kids4Truth (www.kids4truth.org).