

## Week 3: Imitating Christ as a Lifelong Process

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### 1. How Jesus Lived

- To imitate Christ, we must observe His example.
- Dependence – Jesus sought the Father in prayer before action. (John 5:19)
- Obedience – He remained faithful even when obedience was costly. (Philippians 2:8)
- Compassion – He responded to people with mercy and restoration. (Matthew 9:36)
- Christlikeness is revealed in how we treat others.

### 2. Christlike Character

- Spiritual maturity is measured by formation, not information.
- Humility – Choosing servanthood over recognition. (Philippians 2:5)
- Patience – Responding with grace under pressure.
- Forgiveness – Releasing what Christ has already forgiven.

### 3. Following Christ in Daily Life

- Imitation moves from belief to behavior.
- Reactions – Choose gentleness, clarity, and forgiveness.
- Speech – Speak life and guard tone. (Ephesians 4:29)
- Priorities – Value prayer, people, and purpose.
- Hidden faithfulness – Most growth happens in private obedience.

### 4. Aligning Belief and Behavior

- True discipleship is not only knowing truth — it is living truth.
- Christlikeness closes the gap between what we believe and how we live.

### 5. A Lifelong Journey

- Imitating Christ continues throughout life:
  - Deepening through experience
  - Refining through testing
  - Revealing new areas for growth
- We are not finished products — we are ongoing reflections.

### Discussion Questions

- What aspect of Jesus’ life challenges you most right now — humility, obedience, compassion, or patience?
- What is one area where Christlike character still needs to be formed in you?
- How do trials reveal whether we are imitating Christ or reacting from the flesh?
- In a recent difficult situation, how could you have responded more like Christ?
- What daily habit could help you align belief and behavior more consistently?
- Why do you think spiritual growth requires time?
- What does “progress, not perfection” look like in your walk with God?

