

IMITATION Michael Pickford

Young people try hard to imitate others: Their favorite singer, their favorite actor, their favorite character in a book, et al.

There's nothing wrong with imitation, depending on who we're trying to imitate. The apostle Paul encouraged others to imitate him as he imitated Christ (1 Corinthians 11:1). He often enjoined others to follow his example of godliness (Php 3:17; Php 4:9).

There are certainly better choices for people to imitate other than entertainers or fictional characters. And we should instill this truth in our youth! We should teach them to respect their godly elders and imitate their faith (Hebrews 13:7). We should encourage them to follow the example of faithful preachers (1 Timothy 4:12; Titus 2:7).

Above all, we should all strive to "be imitators of God as dear children" (Ephesians 5:1). Love your enemies and you will be imitating God, for He demonstrated the ultimate love for His enemies (Matthew 5:48 [context]; Romans 5:6-9). To live a morally upright life is to imitate of God, as well as setting ourselves apart for His use daily. "But as He who called you is holy, you also be holy in all your conduct" (1 Peter 1:15). Who will you imitate today? ☞

The elements of our worship, as prescribed by God's word, are as follows:

- **SINGING:** Ephesians 5:18,19; Colossians 3:16
- **PREACHING/TEACHING:** Acts 2:42; Eph. 4:11,12
- **PRAYING:** Acts 2:42; Acts 12:5
- **LORD'S SUPPER:** 1 Corinthians 11:23-26; Acts 20:7
- **GIVING:** 1 Corinthians 16:1,2; 2 Corinthians 9:6,7

COME WORSHIP WITH US!

SUNDAY MORNING BIBLE STUDY...9:00
SUNDAY MORNING WORSHIP.....10:00
SUNDAY EVENING WORSHIP.....6:00
WEDNESDAY EVENING SERVICES....7:00

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- www.defendthegospel.com
 - 1st Sunday Singing Night: 6 pm
 - 5th Sunday Night: Guest Speaker
 - Men's Business Meeting. 1st Sunday evenings following services.



SOUTHSIDE SEARCHER

Southside church of Christ, 1167 South Lowry
Smyrna, TN 37167, Phone (615) 459-7854

"They...searched the scriptures daily..." –Acts 17:11

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FAITH OF OUR MOTHERS

Michael Pickford

The old hymn, "Faith of Our Fathers" is a popular and loved one. But what about the faith of our mothers? Arthur B. Pattern actually penned a hymn with such a title in 1920. Our mothers' faith can be the very reason many of us come to Christ and serve Him throughout our days....

A Mother's Faith Is a Living Faith. If a mother desires her children to become servants of the Lord, it should start with them. They need to obey Christ and have a living faith themselves. If they want the sins of their children to one day be cleansed, they should themselves repent and be baptized in order to wash their own sins away (Acts 2:38; 22:16); then they can teach their children to do the same when they mature. Young Timothy was in many ways the product of the living faith exercised in his mother and grandmother (2 Timothy 1:5; 3:14-15).

A Mother's Faith Is a Loving Faith. A loving faith requires unconditional trust in the wisdom of God when it comes to raising our children. It's difficult as a parent to go against the grain of modern "Wisdom" which argues that a parent should never "Spank" his child. But God's glorious wisdom far exceeds that of the wisest of men (1 Corinthians 1:20). God says, "*Do not withhold correction from a child, for if you beat him with a rod, he will not die. You shall beat him with a rod, and deliver his soul from hell*" (Proverbs 23:13-14). We have examples of the failed wisdom of modern men all around us. Children who disrespect their parents abound. The children who receive regular, biblical discipline, for the most part, end up respecting their parents, then their teachers, then the government, and then more importantly, God. Thus they respect and obey God and their souls are delivered from hell. The world says it's unloving to spank a child. God says, "*He who spares his rod hates his son, but he who loves him disciplines him promptly*" (Prov 13:24).

A Mother's Faith Is a Leading Faith. Mothers must lead through example (Matt. 5:13-16). When children see their mother miss services regularly, neglect to read their bibles daily, and not praying daily, they are teaching them spiritually negligent behavior (Heb. 10:25; Acts 17:11; 1 Ths 5:17). They're likely to follow suit! Further, if you want your child to respect your authority, you must respect the authority of their father. Your husband! (Ephesians 5:22, 33). When wives fail to submit to and respect their husbands, their children see that and learn from it. ☞

Evangelist & Editor: Michael Pickford, 615-471-1612, mpickford3@comcast.net

www.defendthegospel.com

Daily Bible Study

by Michael Pickford

This Week's Theme: Godly Parents

Weekly Memory Verse: Ephesians 6:1-2

Introduction: We all know that today is a National holiday known as Mother's Day. We also know that in a few weeks our country will celebrate Father's Day. Perhaps less known is the fact that there is a National Parents Day. "National Parents Day is annually celebrated, in the United States, on the **fourth Sunday in July**. Similar to a combination of Father's Day and Mother's Day, National Parents Day is a day to honor your parents, show appreciation to them and to celebrate family" (via the internet). The Bible places a great amount of emphasis on honoring both our mothers and our fathers. It's not to be forgotten that this honor should be each day of every years, not just one specific day of the year. To treat your parents like dirt throughout the year and then shower them with praise and love on one specific day is the height of hypocrisy. This week, let's focus on what the Bible teaches in regards to how we should act and interact with our parents.

Monday: We should obey our parents.

1. Ephesians 6:1: What should we do in regards to our parents? Why should we do so?
2. Colossians 3:20: In how many things should we obey our parents? Who is pleased with our obedience? There may be times when obeying our parents would displease the Lord. Can you think of some examples?
3. Deuteronomy 21:18-21: While we no longer live under the Old Testament, does this verse at least demonstrate how serious God takes it when we disobey our parents?
4. Consider Proverbs 30:17

Tuesday: We should respect our parents.

1. Obedience and respect should go hand and hand, but it sometimes doesn't. It's possible to obey my mother or my father in a disrespectful manner. Respect is inherent in the idea of honoring our mother and father. To talk back while doing what they've told us to do is to obey disrespectfully.
2. Meditate on these verses today: Ephesians 6:1-2; Leviticus 19:3

Wednesday: We should follow our parent's godly examples.

1. Unfortunately, some parents are setting an ungodly example for their children, examples that we should not follow. But if we're blessed with godly parents, we should imitate them!

2. 1 Timothy 1:5; 2 Timothy 3:14-15: Who were Lois and Eunice to Timothy? What was Timothy to "Continue in" and from whom did he first learn those things?

Thursday: We should care for our parents in their old age.

1. Matthew 15:3-6: Jesus rebuked them for finding an excuse not to honor their parents. The "Honor" in this passage includes monetary gifts. Are their times when we must sacrifice money to help our aged parents?
2. 1 Timothy 5:4, 8, 16: If we neglect our parents in their difficult days and times of need, who are we worse than? What do you think Paul meant by "repay their parents?"
3. Proverbs 23:22: It's often an inconvenience to care for aged and needy parents. It takes a sacrifice of both time and money. We're tempted to pas the responsibility off to siblings, etc. What does this proverb tell us not to do?

Friday: We should praise our parents.

1. Exodus 21:17; Mark 7:10: What do these verses say about how we speak about our parents?
2. Proverbs 21:28: What did the virtuous woman's children do? What can we learn from this?
3. Consider Proverbs 20:20; Proverbs 30:11, 17

DUTY LIST...

SUNDAY MORNING

- Announcements.....Michael Pickford
- Scripture Reading...Glenn Isbell
Reading: Proverbs 31:27-31
- Song Leader.....Tony Jenkins
- Opening Prayer.....Kenny Johnson
- Lord's Table:
Lead.....Michael Pickford
Serve.....Kenny Todd
Serve.....John Nelson
- Closing Prayer.....Sam Miller

SUNDAY EVENING

- Song Leader.....Tony Jenkins
- Lord's Table.....Tony Jenkins

WEDNESDAY EVENING

- Song Leader.....Kenny Todd
- Invitation.....Kenny Johnson

Thank You For Serving!

GOD'S PLAN OF SALVATION

There is only one true saving plan of Salvation outlined in Scripture. No substitutes will do. Have you really been saved? Get out your Bible and study the plan below.

- Hear The Gospel: Romans 10:17
- Believe: Mark 16:16; John 8:24
- Repent of Sin: Acts 2:38; 17:30
- Confess Faith: Romans 10:9, 10
- Be Baptized: Mark 16:16;
Acts 2:38; Acts 22:16; 1 Peter 3:21
- Remain Faithful: Rev. 2:10

Obey Today!

***Home Bible Studies
Available Upon Request!***