

# New Vine Fellowship Sermon Outline October 13, 2024

## MESSAGE: IMITATING GOD

### I. FOUNDATION:

#### A. GOD SAYS... 1 John 5:11-12 (NLT)

11 And this is what God has testified: He has given us eternal life, and this life is in his Son. 12 Whoever has the Son has life; whoever does not have God's Son does not have life.

#### B. ONE Way! John 14:6 (NLT)

6 Jesus told him, "I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one can come to the Father except through me"

### II. REVIEW: NEW LIFESTYLE

#### A. Truth Ephesians 4:21-22 (NLT)

21 Since you have heard about Jesus and have learned the truth that comes from him, 22 throw off your old sinful nature and your former way of life, which is corrupted by lust and deception.

#### B. New Nature Ephesians 4:23-27 (NLT)

23 Instead, let the Spirit renew your thoughts and attitudes. 24 Put on your new nature, created to be like God—truly righteous and holy. 25 So stop telling lies. Let us tell our neighbors the truth, for we are all parts of the same body. 26 And "don't sin by letting anger control you." Don't let the sun go down while you are still angry, 27 for anger gives a foothold to the devil.

#### B-1. Thoughts Isaiah 55:8-9 (NLT)

8 "My thoughts are nothing like your thoughts," says the LORD. "And my ways are far beyond anything you could imagine. 9 For just as the heavens are higher than the earth, so my ways are higher than your ways and my thoughts higher than your thoughts.

*Remember...Ephesians 4:23 (NLT) Instead, let the Spirit renew your thoughts and attitudes.*

#### Thoughts continued

Psalms 94:11 (NLT) The LORD knows people's thoughts; he knows they are worthless!

Ecclesiastes 10:12-14 (NLT) 12 Wise words bring approval, but fools are destroyed by their own words. 13 Fools base their thoughts on foolish assumptions, so their conclusions will be wicked madness; 14 they chatter on and on. No one really knows what is going to happen; no one can predict the future.

Psalms 139:23 (NLT) Search me, O God, and know my heart; test me and know my anxious thoughts.

#### B-2. Attitudes

Romans 14:18 If you serve Christ with this attitude, you will please God, and others will approve of you, too.

1 Peter 3:8 Finally, all of you should be of one mind. Sympathize with each other. Love each other as brothers and sisters. Be tenderhearted, and keep a humble attitude.

Philippians 2:5 You must have the same attitude that Christ Jesus had.

#### B-3. Righteous and Holy

Leviticus 20:26 You must be holy because I, the LORD, am holy. I have set you apart from all other people to be my very own.

1 Peter 1:15-17 (NLT) 15 But now you must be holy in everything you do, just as God who chose you is holy. 16 For the Scriptures say, "You must be holy because I am holy." 17 And remember that the heavenly Father to whom you pray has no favorites. He will judge or reward you according to what you do. So you must live in reverent fear of him during your time here as "temporary residents."

John 17:17 (NLT) Make them holy by your truth; teach them your word, which is truth.

#### B-4. Truth

John 6:47 (NLT) "I tell you the truth, anyone who believes has eternal life.

John 3:3 (NLT) Jesus replied, "I tell you the truth, unless you are born again, you cannot see the Kingdom of God."

### **B-5. Anger**

Proverbs 15:1 (NLT) A gentle answer deflects anger, but harsh words make tempers flare.

James 1:18-20 (NLT) 18 He chose to give birth to us by giving us his true word. And we, out of all creation, became his prized possession. 19 Understand this, my dear brothers and sisters: You must all be quick to listen, slow to speak, and slow to get angry. 20 Human anger does not produce the righteousness God desires.

### **C. STOP**

Ephesians 4:28-29 (NLT)

28 If you are a thief, quit stealing. Instead, use your hands for good hard work, and then give generously to others in need. 29 Don't use foul or abusive language. Let everything you say be good and helpful, so that your words will be an encouragement to those who hear them.

### **C-1. Work Hard, Give Generously**

Isaiah 32:7-8 (NLT) 7 The smooth tricks of scoundrels are evil. They plot crooked schemes. They lie to convict the poor, even when the cause of the poor is just. 8 But generous people plan to do what is generous, and they stand firm in their generosity.

Philemon 1:6 (NLT) And I am praying that you will put into action the generosity that comes from your faith as you understand and experience all the good things we have in Christ.

2 Corinthians 9:6-9 (NLT) 6 Remember this—a farmer who plants only a few seeds will get a small crop. But the one who plants generously will get a generous crop. 7 You must each decide in your heart how much to give. And don't give reluctantly or in response to pressure. "For God loves a person who gives cheerfully." 8 And God will generously provide all you need. Then you will always have everything you need and plenty left over to share with others. 9 As the Scriptures say, "They share freely and give generously to the poor. Their good deeds will be remembered forever."

### **C-2. Language**

Proverbs 10:11(NLT) The words of the godly are a life-giving fountain; the words of the wicked conceal violent intentions.

Proverbs 10:32 (NLT) The lips of the godly speak helpful words, but the mouth of the wicked speaks perverse words.

Proverbs 12:14 (NLT) Wise words bring many benefits, and hard work brings rewards.

### **C-3. Encourage**

Isaiah 35:1-5 (NLT) 1 Even the wilderness and desert will be glad in those days. The wasteland will rejoice and blossom with spring crocuses. 2 Yes, there will be an abundance of flowers and singing and joy! The deserts will become as green as the mountains of Lebanon, as lovely as Mount Carmel or the plain of Sharon. There the LORD will display his glory, the splendor of our God. 3 With this news, strengthen those who have tired hands, and encourage those who have weak knees. 4 Say to those with fearful hearts, "Be strong, and do not fear, for your God is coming to destroy your enemies. He is coming to save you." 5 And when he comes, he will open the eyes of the blind and unplug the ears of the deaf.

Hebrews 10:25 (NLT)

25 And let us not neglect our meeting together, as some people do, but encourage one another, especially now that the day of his return is drawing near.

### **D. REMOVE** Ephesians 4:30-31 (NLT)

30 And do not bring sorrow to God's Holy Spirit by the way you live. Remember, he has identified you as his own, guaranteeing that you will be saved on the day of redemption. 31 Get rid of all bitterness, rage, anger, harsh words, and slander, as well as all types of evil behavior.

### **E. Example** Ephesians 4:32 (NLT)

32 Instead, be kind to each other, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, just as God through Christ has forgiven you.

### **E-1. Kindness**

Proverbs 11:17 (NLT) Your kindness will reward you, but your cruelty will destroy you.

Romans 12:8 (NLT) If your gift is to encourage others, be encouraging. If it is giving, give generously. If God has given you leadership ability, take the responsibility seriously. And if you have a gift for showing kindness to others, do it gladly.

### **E-2. Tenderhearted**

1 Peter 3:8 (NLT) Finally, all of you should be of one mind. Sympathize with each other. Love each other as brothers and sisters. Be tenderhearted, and keep a humble attitude.

### **E-3. Forgiving**

Luke 17:4 (NLT) Even if that person wrongs you seven times a day and each time turns again and asks forgiveness, you must forgive.”

## **SAY IT AGAIN!**

Colossians 3:12-17 (NLT)

12 Since God chose you to be the holy people he loves, you must clothe yourselves with tenderhearted mercy, kindness, humility, gentleness, and patience. 13 Make allowance for each other’s faults, and forgive anyone who offends you. Remember, the Lord forgave you, so you must forgive others. 14 Above all, clothe yourselves with love, which binds us all together in perfect harmony. 15 And let the peace that comes from Christ rule in your hearts. For as members of one body you are called to live in peace. And always be thankful. 16 Let the message about Christ, in all its richness, fill your lives. Teach and counsel each other with all the wisdom he gives. Sing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs to God with thankful hearts. 17 And whatever you do or say, do it as a representative of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks through him to God the Father.

## **III. NEW CHILDREN**

### **A. Imitate God** Ephesians 5:1 (NLT)

1 Imitate God, therefore, in everything you do, because you are his dear children.

### **B. Christ’s Example** Ephesians 5:2 (NLT)

2 Live a life filled with love, following the example of Christ. He loved us and offered himself as a sacrifice for us, a pleasing aroma to God.

### **C. Examples** Ephesians 5:3-5 (NLT)

3 Let there be no sexual immorality, impurity, or greed among you. Such sins have no place among God’s people. 4 Obscene stories, foolish talk, and coarse jokes—these are not for you. Instead, let there be thankfulness to God. 5 You can be sure that no immoral, impure, or greedy person will inherit the Kingdom of Christ and of God. For a greedy person is an idolater, worshiping the things of this world.

### **D. Deception** Ephesians 5:6-7 (NLT)

6 Don’t be fooled by those who try to excuse these sins, for the anger of God will fall on all who disobey him.

7 Don’t participate in the things these people do.

## **To be continued...**

## **IV. LIVING IN LIGHT**

FINAL WORD

Matthew 24:33

In the same way, when you see all these things, you can know his return is very near, right at the door.