

## **Introduction: Who Should We Imitate?**

In today’s world, there are many “role models.” Many people want to be like influencers or successful celebrities.

But for Christians, the one we should truly imitate is the way of life that follows Christ.

Paul says, “Be imitators of me,” not to become a faction leader, but out of love and responsibility as a spiritual father.

### **1. “A Father’s Love” Behind Harsh Words (vv.14–15)**

- The purpose of rebuke is love.

Paul does not aim to shame the Corinthians but to admonish them as beloved children.

- Not a “guardian,” but a “father.”

Though many can instruct, Paul is the one who gave them birth through the gospel. He sees them as his spiritual children and cares deeply for them.

### **2. What to Imitate Is a Way of Life (vv.16–17)**

- Why does Paul say, “Imitate me”?

Because he himself imitates Christ. This is not just words but a practical lifestyle rooted in obedience (see 1 Cor. 11:1).

- Timothy is sent as a living example.

Timothy reflects Paul’s teachings and way of life. Faith is not merely knowledge but is passed on through example.

### **3. The Test of Faith — “Words” or “Power”? (vv.18–20)**

- The arrogance of some.

Some thought Paul would not come and became arrogant, disregarding his warnings.

- Paul’s spiritual attitude.

Paul says, “I will come soon, if the Lord wills,” showing he acts in submission to God’s will.

- What is “power”?

“The kingdom of God is not a matter of talk but of power” (v.20). This “power” is not miracles or gifts, but the transforming power of a life lived in imitation of Christ (cf. Gal. 2:19–20).

#### **4. Conclusion: What Will You Choose? (v.21)**

Paul asks, “Shall I come with a rod, or in love and a spirit of gentleness?”

This is not a threat but a loving call to repentance—a spiritual father urging his children to choose wisely.

#### **Application and Challenge**

- Examine your faith: Is it just words? Does it lack Kingdom power? Are there false kings in your heart?
- Decision to surrender: Give your life to Christ and live out the power of the Kingdom.
- Concrete action: Practice one act that expresses Kingdom power (e.g., words of encouragement, service, prayer).

#### **Closing**

Jesus said, “Deny yourself, take up your cross, and follow Me” (Mark 8:34).

Paul declared, “To live is Christ, and to die is gain.”

Faith is not a fashion but a life to be lived. Let us daily ask, “What Would Jesus Do?” (WWJD) and faithfully walk in His steps.