



33. Be Like Me!

Paul wrote this challenge: “*Be imitators of me, just as I also am of Christ.*” That’s 1 Corinthians 11:1.

Can you imagine saying that? Paul also wrote, “*I exhort you, be imitators of me,*” 1 Corinthians 4:16. And he wrote, “*Brethren, join in following my example, and observe those who walk according to the pattern you have in us,*” Philippians 3:17. Does that sound prideful to you? It

doesn't to me. Paul's repeated exhortation for others to follow his example was not prideful. It wasn't. The Apostle Paul had learned to be like his teacher Jesus. Therefore, he could challenge others to follow his own example *because* he followed the example of Jesus.

Have you seen people trying to be like some famous athlete? Some wear a sport's jersey with a famous athlete's name and number on it. Or they wear the athletic shoes endorsed by some athlete ... well , they do if they can afford them. In the 1980's and 1990's, in much of the world, people knew the phrase "Be like Mike" referring to the famous basketball player

Michael Jordan. The truth is that people try to follow the exceptional examples of others. Our lives, as believers, should be exceptional examples of being like Jesus ... good examples, great examples, for others to follow. Is that true in your life? In the sentence “Be like _____,” could you put your name in the blank space? Can you say *be like me*? There is a more specific question that you should answer. Does your life say, “Be imitators of me, just as I also am of Christ”? Here’s my exhortation. It’s not, *Be like Mike*. It’s ... *Be like Jesus!*

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