

Are we Imitators of Christ?

(video transcript)

By *Karen Spiegelberg*

I was driving home from running errands one day, and I was stopped by a red light at an intersection. While I was waiting for the light to turn green again, I couldn't help but notice the bumper sticker on the car in front of me.

It read, "I like your Christ, I do not like your Christians. They are so unlike your Christ."

The credit for the quote was given to Mahatma Gandhi.



I'm Karen Spiegelberg. Welcome to A WORD for Women—a show by women and for women where we build each other up in our amazing and wonderful God-given roles in life!

Mahatma Gandhi was a Hindu who was responsible for great religious and social freedoms in his home country of India. Although as Christians we cannot defend his beliefs, the strong comments he makes about the appearance of Christians and their behavior really resonates, don't you agree?

In Ephesians 5:1-2 it tells us, "Follow God's example, therefore, as dearly loved children and walk in the way of love, just as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us as a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God."

The word "Christian" itself means, "Little Christs" or "Jesus' Juniors". But how can we call ourselves Christians when we don't always act like Christ? Well first of all, Christ was perfect, we are not. We are vulnerable sinful human beings, and we ourselves fall way short of perfection.

Now I can hear you saying, "Well, thanks a lot that really made me feel great." But here's the Good News! What we need to understand when God commands us to be imitators of Him is that it's already been fulfilled in Jesus Christ!

Ephesians 1:3 says: "Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in the heavenly realms with every spiritual blessing in Christ."

So can we be like Christ? Be imitators of Him? Yes. Because being like Christ acknowledges that it is the life of Christ within us that's responsible for our works and actions. When we grasp this, that it is Him within us, who loves and does all good things, we are capable of being imitators of Him because He is capable. We can love others as He loves us. We can treat others as we would like to be treated. We can forgive like He forgives. And we can be a Light and shining example for unbelievers to lead more to salvation in Him, through Him.

Gandhi's quote is a famous one. But there is another similar spoken by a fairly unknown German philosopher in the late 1800's who said of Christians, "I would believe in their salvation if they acted like people who are saved."

Thank you for joining us on A WORD for Women. Be imitators of Christ because Christ lives within you! And be encouraged by Matthew 5:16, "In the same way, let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven." Amen.

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