**Imitating**

**Therefore be imitators of God,**

**as beloved children, and live in love,**

**as Christ loved us and gave Himself up for us,**

**a fragrant offering and a sacrifice to God.**

***(Ephesians 5:1-2)***

**Imitation is the sincerest form of television. *(Fred Allen, comedian)***

**It’s illegal to imitate an animal in Miami. (Armchair Reader: Vitally Useless Information, p. 75)**

**Men often applaud an imitation and hiss the real thing. *(Aesop)***

**The autograph market has been flooded with fake signatures by Ronald Reagan. Nearly 60 percent of “Reagan” autographs being sold to collectors are phony, according to a study by a company that authenticates collectibles. Of autographs attributed to the Beatles, only 6 percent are real. *(MSNBC.com, at it appeared in The Week magazine, February 4, 2005)***

**Children have never been very good at listening to their elders, but they have never failed to imitate them. *(James Baldwin)***

**Nobody can be exactly like me. Sometimes even I have trouble doing it. *(Tallulah Bankhead)***

**Just getting out of the driveway was a major feat during last year’s snow and ice storms. One co-worker was relating how he used his seven-year-old son’s baseball bat to smash the slick coat of ice on his driveway. He got cold and went inside for a cup of coffee before attempting to clear the car. Several minutes later, his son, who had been outside with him, came in. “Dad,” he said, “I got the ice off the car.” “How did you do that?” his father asked. “Same way you did” the boy shrugged, “with the baseball bat.” *(Janine Jaquet Biden, in Reader’s Digest)***

**In 1967, an aspiring basketball coach named Mike Jarvis attended his first coaching clinic. The man conducting it was Indiana University’s basketball coach Bobby Knight. At the clinic, Jarvis spent $1.50 to buy Knight’s book on basketball tips and to learn the finer points of man-to-man defense. Almost a quarter-century later, Jarvis was hired as St. John’s University’s basketball coach. In the 1999 NCAA college basketball tournament, St. John’s played Indiana. And Jarvis ended up beating the man whose book he committed to memory. *(Mike Shanahan with Adam Schefter, in Enterpreneur magazine)***

**The mimeciton beetle is called an “ant aper” because it lives in the nest of driver ants which it imitates in appearance and movement. *(Ripley’s Believe It or Not!: #21, p. 8)***

**A baker living in a small village bought his butter from a neighboring farmer. One day he became suspicious that the butter was not of the same weight as it had been at first. For several days he weighed the butter, and concluded that the rolls of butter which the farmer brought were gradually diminishing in weight. This angered the baker so that he had the farmer arrested. “I presume you have weights,” said the judge. “No, sir,” replied the farmer. “How then do you manage to weigh the butter that you sell!” “That’s easily explained,” said the farmer. “When the baker commenced buying his butter from me, I thought I’d get my bread from him, and it’s his one-pound loaf I’ve been using as a weight for the butter I sell. If the weight of the butter is wrong, he has himself to blame.” *(Christian Herald)***

**As a boy in the middle west, I used to amuse myself by holding a stick across a gateway that the sheep had to pass through. After the first few sheep had jumped over the stick, I took it away; but all the other sheep leaped through the gateway over an imaginary barrier. The only reason for their jumping was that those in front had jumped. The sheep is not the only animal with that tendency. Almost all of us are prone to do what others are doing, to believe what others are believing, to accept, without question, the testimony of prominent men. *(Dale Carnegie, in Public Speaking)***

**I wish I had a nickel for every time someone asked, “What’s Johnny Carson really like?” I worked for him as a writer on “The Tonight Show” after Jack Paar left, and he always had a kind of fatherly feeling toward me – maybe because we both come from Nebraska. I remember once when I was visiting California, he asked me to meet him at a bar near Beverly Hills. I told him that I was wearing white sneakers and that I didn’t have time to change. He said, “Oh, that’s all right. They know me there.” As I headed over, I pictured myself walking in like a rube in my white sneakers. When I arrived, there was Johnny, looking impeccable as usual – but wearing white sneakers! “I didn’t want you to feel too bad,” he said. It was both funny and touching. So much for the “cold Carson” people love to tell us about. *(Dick Cavett, in New Choices)***

**If this particular type of caterpillar eats leaves, it takes on the color and shape of a twig. If it eats flowers, it will start to look like a flower. This species in the Southwest is called the Nemoria Arizonaria. (L. M. Boyd)**

**Parents who take their general standards from children -- copying, for example, dietary habits, romantic practices, and even their clothing -- should not be rearing children, and possibly not even running around loose. If you can't tell the adults from the children -- if everybody in the society yearns to live the childish life -- none of the incentive for development that comes from youthful yearning for the privileges of the mature will take place. *(Judith Martin, in Miss Manners' Guide to Rearing Perfect Children)***

**You can clone a frog. *(L. M. Boyd)***

**The elementary school where I teach has a speech services program for 4-year-olds. At the end of one cold day, the teacher wore her coat to walk her pupils out to meet their parents. One of the mothers was wearing a coat just like the teacher’s. In a perfect demonstration of understanding, one of her students turned to the teacher and said, “Look! You both rhyme!” (Lynn Owen, in Country Extra magazine)**

**Imitation: The sincerest form of competition. *(Leonard Louis Levinson, in Bartlett's Unfamiliar Quotations)***

**Historically, the claim of consensus has been the first refuge of scoundrels; it is a way to avoid debate by claiming that the matter is already settled. *(Michael Crichton)***

**Each female cuckoo specializes in producing eggs that mimic the appearance of one specific species of bird, which she lays in the other bird’s nest for that bird to unwittingly raise as her own. *(Don Voorhees, in The Perfectly Useless Book of Useless Information, p. 160)***

**Those who do not want to imitate anything, produce nothing. *(Salvador Dali)***

**Elephants are copycats: Elephants can now be added to the select list of species that are capable of mimicry, a new study says. Zoologists studying a herd of elephants in Tsavo National Park, Kenya, say that some of them have been making truck sounds; the herd is being raised near a highway. One of the elephants, named Mlaika, is such a good mimic, zoologist Joyce Poole tells National Geographic, "I was sometimes unable to distinguish between the distant truck and Mlaika's calling." Researchers also recorded the sounds of an African elephant who learned to imitate the Asian elephants with whom he lived for 18 years in a Swiss zoo. There also have been reports of elephants who have learned to hum, and even of "croaking" elephants who may be imitating frogs. Until recently, scientists say, this type of "vocal training," had never been found in nonprimate land mammals. Such a talent, says Poole, could help elephants recognize each other across vast distances and to form protective social groups. The other animals with the ability to mimic, are parrots and some other birds, dolphins, and humans. *(The Week magazine, April 15, 2005)***

**Never try to make anyone like yourself – you know, and God knows, that one of you is enough. (Ralph Waldo Emerson)**

**British shoppers can soon buy a sterling silver and cubic zirconia version of Camilla Parker Bowles’ engagement ring from Prince Charles at discount store ASDA. The replica will cost about $36. (BusinessWeek, *at it appeared in The Week magazine, March 25, 2005)***

**There are no ermines in summer, but that doesn’t mean they die off every year. In summer when their fur is brown, they are called weasels. In winter when their fur turns white, they are called ermines. *(L. M. Boyd)***

**A young father paralyzed by a debilitating stroke has taught himself to walk and talk again by copying his 2-year-old daughter. Mark Ellis, of Derbyshire, England, was immobilized by a stroke just two weeks after his baby daughter, Lola-Rose, was born. As she began to make baby noises, Ellis began to copy her in the hopes of regaining his speech. Father and daughter then learned to speak at the same time by reading books together. And just as Lola-Rose took her first steps, her father began walking with the use of a walker. “They have a strong bond,” said Ellis’s wife, Amy. *(The Week magazine, August 3, 2012)***

**If everyone is thinking alike, then no one is thinking. *(Benjamin Franklin)***

**In China, when you’re one in a million, there are 1,300 other people just like you. *(Bill Gates)***

***\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\**Model after the Original Being. Copy God in thought and word. Act in the joy, laughter, love and peace of Spirit. Imitate the example of Jesus. *(Rev. Pat Zarlengo, Divine Science Minister)***

**Since God made us to be originals, why stoop to be a copy? (Quoted by Billy Graham, Chicago Tribune-New York News Syndicate)**

**\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*You don’t get harmony when everybody sings the same note. (Doug Floyd, in Spokane, Washington, Spokesman Review)**

**"Today we're going to play a game called Imitation," our children's minister told the kids gathered around him for the children's sermon. "I'll name something and you act out what it does. Ready? Chicken!" The kids flapped their arms, cackled, and crowed. Next it was elephant, then football player, and then ballerina. The last one was Jesus. While many of the children hesitated, one six-year-old with a big smile on his face immediately threw his arms wide open in welcome. The congregation applauded. (David McCasland, in Our Daily Bread, September 3, 2016)**

**\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\***

**Almost all absurdity of conduct arises from the imitation of those whom we cannot resemble. *(Samuel Johnson)***

**No man ever yet became great by imitation. (Samuel Johnson)**

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\***Label for a syrup bottle: "Imitation maple syrup with real maple flavoring. (Consumer Reports)**

**In “Peter and the Wolf,” the flute player trills an imitation of a mockingbird. A few years ago the National Symphony Orchestra performed outdoors in Washington, D.C. A real mockingbird in a nearby tree imitated the flute player imitating a mockingbird. Pretty much messed up the concert. *(L. M. Boyd)***

**You will never bypass your predecessor by following in his footsteps. (Bits & Pieces)**

**Some orchids mimic the appearance and smell of female insects, which encourages the male insects to “mate” with the flowers and thus pollinate them. *(Don Voorhees, in The Super Book of Useless Information, p. 9)***

**A painter was going to paint our living room and had paint cans there and a brush. My visiting 7-year-old granddaughter, Elizabeth, noticed them, got into a can, took the brush, and began painting her nails. Shocked, I asked what she was doing. Quite innocently, she replied, “Grandma Susie, I’m painting my nails like you do!” (Suzan Wiener, in The Saturday Evening Post)**

**If everybody’s thinking the same thing, then nobody’s thinking. *(George Patton)***

**Never hire or promote in your own image. It is foolish to replicate your strength and idiotic to replicate your weakness. It is essential to employ, trust and reward those whose perspective, ability and judgment are radically different from yours. It is also rare, for it requires uncommon humility, tolerance and wisdom. (Dee W. Hock, in Fast Company)**

**I was asked at a lecture, “Why can’t I clone myself and keep the copies as spare parts?” And my answer was, “Be careful – one of the copies might keep you for spare parts.” (Sydney Brenner, Nobel Prize in Medicine, 2002)**

**Those who study such things say that the European starling is one of the world’s great mimics. It has the ability to imitate a surprisingly wide variety of sounds, including a dog’s bark, a cat’s meow, a cow’s moo, the songs of 50 other bird species, the drumming of a woodpecker and a ringing telephone. (Samantha Weaver, in Tidbits)**

**Stories mimic life like certain insects mimic leaves and twigs. (Mary Gaitskill, novelist)**

**Soon after I arrived in Russia as a foreign-exchange student, my Russian classmates kept asking me about a sweater I had on one day. Not understanding what they meant, I simply told them it was the style. But later, to my horror, I discovered that I had been wearing my sweater inside out. I was even more embarrassed the next day, however, when most of my Russian friends began wearing their sweater the “American” way – inside out, of course. (Alissabeth Newton, in Reader’s Digest)**

**When everyone thinks alike, no one thinks very much. *(Walter Lippmann)***

**Working in a print shop, my coworker and I sometimes forget how complex the equipment seems to clients. She explained to one woman how to use a copier that could enlarge, reduce, collate, change paper size and adjust the lightness or darkness of copies. “It’s really so simple,” my colleague concluded. “All you have to do is tell it what you want, and it does it.” The client’s anxiety vanished. Leaning close to the machine, she commanded, “Copy both sides, please!” *(Aleta Sonnenberg, in Reader’s Digest)***

**When a New York publishing house brought out a volume of blank pages called The Nothing Book, it was accused of plagiarism by the Belgian publisher of a blank book called The Memoirs of an Amnesiac. The American firm rejected the claim, contending that blankness was in the public domain and therefore not subject to copyright restrictions. *(UPI)***

**Marsh warblers mimic the calls of seventy other birds. *(Don Voorhees, in The Perfectly Useless Book of Useless Information, p. 156)***

**DRUM BEAT: Two castes of paper wasps are genetically identical. Larvae turn into either workers or potential queens, depending on the behavior of adults, say University of Wisconsin scientists. If adults drum on nest walls with their antennae, the vibrations inhibit fat storage and produce workers, *(T. A. Frail, in Smithsonian magazine)***

**Camp is the kind of comedy where they imitate me. (Mae West)**

**Why it is against the law to make a pastry reproduction of the White House, I do not know, but that is reported as fact. *(L. M. Boyd)***

**\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\***