



Family Circus *Model Family?*

Checking In:

- What was the most frustrating part of your week? Did you struggle to feel God's presence as you navigated that challenge?
- What's the hardest thing about Christianity for you? Why?

Sermon Discussion:

- Did you eat imitation cereal or have imitation brands of clothing when you were young? Do you now? Is there a stigma you sense that comes with that?
- When you consider the notion that imitation is the sincerest form of flattery, can you understand it as being akin to worship in a faith context? What does this perspective say about our lives as Christians?
- Read **Ephesians 5:1-2**. Have you ever considered how much the Christian faith is about imitation? Does that reality frustrate you at all? How so?
- What is Jesus' example primarily about? Why is this example important for family?
- Read **Ephesians 5:21-25**. What connotation comes to mind when you hear the word *submit*? Why has that become such a negative idea in our society? Is it a negative term?
- Read **Ephesians 6:1-4**. Why is submission, honoring and belonging such a vital part of family? How does this mentality reveal who God is to our world? What about His character/nature is exemplified?

Application Questions:

- The bottom line is: **IMITATION IS THE SINCEREST FORM OF FAMILY**. Why is it the *sincerest* form? What happens if we have a day where we don't imitate God in our family? Are we being insincere? What's the difference between being real and striving for something better?
- As you consider how much dedication, submission and focus is required in order to imitate God, do you feel overwhelmed? How do you balance your everyday life with your spiritual one? Can you? Should you?
- Think about the cross being the target we're aiming for in the way we do family. What does that tell you that you should focus on this week with your spouse? Your kids? Your parents? Your group members? What's your first step in applying this truth today?