

“The world knows what we’re against. It’s about time we show them what we’re for.” This comment during a radio interview with a Christian music group really made me think. Most people can name a few “don’ts” from the Ten Commandments; radical Christians are often shown picketing funerals or abortion clinics; and Hollywood frequently portrays Christians as judgmental and hypocritical. It seems the world knows what we stand against. **But what is it we are for?**

God is **FOR** His people. I think sometimes we miss that. We see messy lives, difficult circumstances, and painful consequences, but we fail to see the person behind the confusion. The Pharisees were against adultery, but were they **FOR** the accused adulterous woman? Jesus was. He knew her sin but did not condemn her. Likewise, He sees past our sin and yet deeply loves us anyway. He’s our biggest cheerleader. **How do we learn to live like that?**

“Be imitators of God, therefore, as dearly loved children and live a life of love, just as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us as a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God.” (Ephesians 5:1-2) In order for us to imitate God, we need to love, live, and lead like Jesus. We learn to love God as we study Scripture. **Are we spending time with God getting to know and love Him?** As we study Christ’s perfect example, we should strive to live like Him. **Are we asking God to help us imitate Christ in our relationships and everyday lives?** Jesus led others to the Father through His life. **Are we willing to allow God to use us to bring others to Christ?**

God wants us to authentically imitate Jesus’ example. When we remember that God loves us and is **FOR** us, then we can genuinely pursue this path with passion and compassion. As we begin to look more and more like Jesus, the world will begin to see what it is we stand **FOR**. That is when they will find hope.

Questions to Consider: See the above paragraphs.

Additional Verses: *Ephesians 2:8-9, 10, 4:31-32, 5:1-3, 6:19-20; John 1:1-3, 14; Mark 1:35, 5:37, 6:30-32, 9:2; Matthew 10, 23:25; Luke 19*

This week’s memory verse: “Be imitators of God, therefore, as dearly loved children and live a life of love, just as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us as a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God.” (Ephesians 5:1-2)

REMINDERS:

January 16, 2011 – 3rd:culture! We will meet from 6-7pm at SHU. Childcare will be provided as normal. We will be engaging in a project that will stretch you, challenge you and bless you all at the same time! Feel free to bring your laptops, iPads, or pen and paper...the rest of the details you'll need to come and find out about.

January 23, 2011 – The Gathering at SHU at 6 pm! We'll share communion together & hear from one of the people and non-profits we are supporting globally.

January 30, 2011 – MOSAIC FAMILY FUN NIGHT!