



# **Problems!**

**Stitch is not a puppy. He is a creature programmed to be a destructive force**

**How do you even define “model citizen” for a “puppy”?**

**Don't you think that's kind of a big responsibility for a little girl all on her own?**





# Ohana Identity Crisis



**Elvis wasn't a dog**

**Lilo sees Stitch as a puppy, so she should be teaching him puppy lessons**

**By choosing Elvis, she ends up teaching Stitch to be a performer, not a puppy**

**Without realizing it, she's not teaching a puppy at all, she's teaching a monster, that is important**



# Ohana The Imitation Model

*You became imitators of us and of the Lord, for you welcomed the message in the midst of severe suffering with the joy given by the Holy Spirit.*

*1 Thessalonians 1:6*

**Imitate means: to follow as a pattern, model, or example**

**We are called to become Christlike, imitators of Jesus**

**The goal of Christian faith is not to make you the best version of yourself you can be, but to make you the best version of Jesus you can be**



# Ohana Identity Crisis



**We have the right King to imitate**

**We try to teach people to be “better people”, more “religious people”**

**We stress the Golden Rule and religious activities**

**These are all good and important but are they the lessons that form Christlike identity or do they create an **identity crisis**?**

**Do they encourage us to personify Jesus or perform?**



# Ohana The Imitation Model



**The Bible absolutely calls us to imitate Christ. That's clear. But imitation only works if we understand the One we're imitating**

**If we misunderstand who Jesus is, we will misunderstand what it means to imitate Him**

**You cannot imitate someone you do not truly know**



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# **The Imitation Model**



**We imitate Jesus' habits  
without connecting to His heart**

**We imitate His kindness but  
ignore His holiness**

**We imitate His compassion but neglect His  
convictions**



**If your understanding of Jesus is  
incomplete, your imitation of Him  
will be incomplete**



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# Who is Jesus

**John 14:9 says “Anyone who has seen me has seen the Father.”**

**Colossians 1:15 says “The Son is the image of the invisible God.”**

**“The Son is the radiance of God’s glory and the exact representation of his being, sustaining all things by his powerful word. After he had provided purification for sins, he sat down at the right hand of the Majesty in heaven.”**

**Hebrews 1:3**



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# Who is Jesus

**Jesus doesn't just teach about God,  
He reveals God**

**When we look at Jesus, we see God's  
compassion, holiness, mercy, justice, truth, and love**

**Imitating Jesus is not behavior modification, it is  
identity transformation**

**Spiritual disciplines we teach serve  
the identity, they do not create it**



# Ohana Ending the Crisis

**A spiritual identity crisis ends when we fix our eyes on the true image of God: Jesus Christ. (*Hebrews 12:2*)**

**Jesus Models the Life We Were Created For**

**He embodies perfect trust in the Father, true love for people, obedience in suffering, humility in leadership, and sacrifice for others**

**“Follow me” is not an invitation to religious tasks, it’s an invitation to a transformed life**



# Ohana Ending the Crisis

**If we aren't intentionally following His model, we will inevitably follow another one**

**When we imitate the wrong things, (church culture, influencers, or personal preferences), we become distorted versions of disciples**



**Many Christians try to be “good Christians” without becoming “followers of Christ.”**

**We need to shift the question from: “What would Jesus do?” to: “Who is Jesus, and am I becoming like Him?”**



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# The Character of Christ



**Jesus Is Marked by Compassion**

***(Matthew 9:35–36; Mark 1:40–41; Luke 7:13)***

**Jesus was repeatedly “moved with compassion.”**

**His compassion led Him to engage by touching lepers, eating with sinners, and comforting the hurting**

**Compassion moves us from sympathy to participation**

**Jesus’ followers are not known by their success, knowledge, or talent but by their compassion**



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# The Character of Christ

**Jesus Is Marked by Obedience**  
**(*Philippians 2:5–8; John 6:38*)**

**Jesus' obedience was not  
mechanical, it was relational**

**He lived to do the  
Father's will**

**His obedience shaped His  
identity as Son**

**Our obedience cannot flow from pressure  
or guilt, it must flow from love**

**True imitation means trusting God  
enough to obey Him even when it costs**



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# The Character of Christ



**Jesus Is Marked by Sacrificial Love**  
**(*John 13:34–35; John 15:12–13*)**

**Jesus loved deeply, freely, and sacrificially**

**He loved enemies, restored failures, served the lowly, forgave that which created guilt**

**Our world should recognize Jesus' followers not merely by their doctrine or buildings, but by their love**



**Sacrificial love is the antidote to identity crisis**



# Ohana The Character of Christ



**If your faith is shaped by convenience,  
you're imitating the wrong king**



**If your life is shaped by compassion,  
obedience and sacrificial love, you're imitating Jesus**

**And when these characteristics become our identity,  
the crisis begins to resolve**



**Because discipleship isn't about copying  
Jesus' behavior, it's about becoming  
shaped by His character**



# Ohana Resolving the Crisis

**You know the old saying “You are what you eat”, for spiritual identity, “You Become What You Behold”**

**Stitch becomes what he focuses on and so do we**

**You cannot imitate a Jesus you rarely behold**



***Since, then, you have been raised with Christ, set your hearts on things above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. Set your minds on things above, not on earthly things.***

***Colossians 3:1-2***



# **Ohana** Resolving the Crisis

**Discipleship Is Not Behavior Training,  
it's Identity Transformation**

**God is not trying to make you a “better person.”**

**He is shaping you into the image of His Son**

**Discipleship is not teaching “puppies” to perform, it is  
teaching children of God to reflect their Father**

**Christianity isn't about doing better, it's  
about becoming new**



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# Resolving the Crisis



## Jesus Restores Our Identity

The gospel is not about self-improvement;  
it is about identity recovery

Through Jesus, we become: Children of God (***John 1:12***)

A New creations (***2 Corinthians 5:17***)

Ambassadors of Christ (***2 Corinthians 5:20***)

A Follower who knows who they are  
and can walk confidently in who they  
are becoming



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# Be Imitators

**If identity shapes imitation, then who or what are we imitating?**

**Does my life imitate the character of King Jesus?**

**Am I compassionate?**

**Am I obedient?**

**Am I sacrificial in love?**

**If not, then maybe the issue isn't your effort maybe the issue is your model**





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*Means Family*

*And in God's family identity is  
shaped by imitation and imitation  
creates transformation*

**1 John 3:1-2**