

## Be an Original

A man who thought he had a remarkable replica of a Leonardo da Vinci painting took his work of art to a museum. He showed the copied painting to the curator to get his reaction. The curator immediately identified the painting as a forgery – and also the copyist, his nationality and when the copy was made.

Then the curator turned the painting over. The information on the back confirmed that he was right on all three counts. “How did you know it was a fake?” the man asked. “It looks like an amazing likeness to me.”

“People who make a living copying the masters have little imagination of their own,” the curator explained. “And this person’s choice of subject, brush strokes and areas of emphasis practically scream ‘fake.’ Think about those celebrity impersonators – how they overemphasize a certain vocal inflection or gesture. It’s the same thing here.”

Let’s make it personal. If you truly want to distinguish yourself, be an innovator, not an imitator. God has given you unique skills, ideas and experiences. It’s okay to be inspired by role models, but use that inspiration to develop your own distinctive style.

The world does not need a clone of someone else. It needs the one and only you.

So, if you want to be original, be yourself.

--Beecher Hunter