

### ***Mimesis – Imitatio in the Authentic Letters of the Apostle Paul***

The first part of the thesis provides the reader with a concise overview of different semantic levels of the term *mimesis* as found in the ancient literature written in the Greek language. Furthermore, the author focuses her attention on the use of the concept of *mimesis* in the Old Testament, and the New Testament writings other than Paul's authentic letters. Such a survey prepares the ground for a detailed study of the concept of *mimesis* in the authentic letters written by the Apostle Paul. The idea of *mimesis* is present in Paul's authentic letters in five explicit passages (1 Tess 1:6–7; 1 Tess 2:14; 1 Cor 4:16; 1 Cor 11:1 and Phil 3:17). Each of the passages is studied within the whole context of the respective letter, written for a group living its own particular situation. The thesis compares different exegetical solutions from several researchers. Some of the researchers understand Paul's appeal to imitation as a call to be obedient to his teaching. Other experts are more inclined to understand this imitation as an authentic representation of the Cross in the life of Jesus' followers. The thesis tries to prove that the mystery of Christ's *kenosis*, expressed in a very significant way in the Christological hymn contained in the Letter to the Philippians (Phil 2:5–11), is considered the most appropriate key toward the understanding of the term *mimesis* used by Apostle Paul. The conclusion of the work presents some implications from *mimesis* according to the Apostle Paul for contemporary Christian spirituality, Christian ethics and ecclesiology.