

Be Imitators of God **Ephesians 5:1-14**

The Christian life is a journey whereby we walk toward Christlikeness. Ephesians 4 encouraged us to walk worthy of our calling and not to walk like those who are separated from God. Ephesians 5:1-14 elaborates on this theme and encourages us to walk in love and in light. We are to be imitators of God—to walk in the light of His love and to love walking in His light.

Topic: Imitating God includes walking in love since “just as Christ also loved us and gave Himself up for us, an offering and a sacrifice to God as a fragrant aroma” (Eph. 5:2). Once we were in “darkness, but now you are light in the Lord; walk as children of the light” (Eph. 5:8). Not only are we exhorted to avoid participation in the works of darkness, “but instead even expose them” (Eph. 5:11) for “all things become visible when they are exposed by the light” (Eph. 5:13).

- Sexual immorality, impurity, greed, foolish talk, and coarse joking have no place in the Christian life (Eph 5:3-4). Why do you think these sinful acts allure us so much?
- Why is it so easy for Christians or for churches to excuse these things or even to endorse them?
- Because “of these things the wrath of God comes upon the sons of disobedience” (Eph. 5:6). Since we all “were formerly darkness” (Eph. 5:8), this means that God and His love saved us from God and His wrath. We don’t usually think about being saved *from* God, do we?
- The fruit of light “consists in all goodness and righteousness and truth” (Eph 5:9). What is the goodness, righteousness, and truth of God as revealed in the book of Ephesians? List many.

Association: We are told to “be imitators of God, as beloved children” (Eph. 5:1). Children enjoy imitating their parents and we should enjoy imitating our spiritual parents as well as our Heavenly Father.

- Did you have a godly upbringing and earthly parents that set godly examples for you?
- Who were some of you spiritual parents whose example you tried to follow?
- What are the ways in which you seek to imitate God?
- How did things change for you when you arose from the dead and dark ways in which you used to live?

Guidance: Share your best tips and practices that help you walk in the love and light of God.

- What daily practices do you employ in your walk toward Christlikeness?
- We can easily slip back into dark ways. How often do you share your struggles with others?
- With whom do you share/confess/seek accountability? It is important that we share, but also important that we share with appropriate people. For instance, married people should not seek counsel from single folks, adults should not burden young people with heavy burdens, but rather we should seek to share, confess, and seek accountability from our peers or those with greater experience.
- Consider adding a regular accountability aspect to your weekly discipleship.
- Pray for and with one another about walking in the love and light of God.