

We Are Imitators

"¹Be imitators of God, therefore, as dearly loved children ²and 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

Be Imitators – [ginesthe mimētai] - Follows a pattern or model focusing on behavior.

When it comes to imitating God, is your life: reflective of Ephesians 5:2, a "life of love, a fragrant offering, a sacrifice to God"? Or, a cheap knockoff or a mockery? In calling yourself a believer, is your imitation in reality poking fun at Him?

"³But among you there must not be even a hint of sexual immorality, or of any kind of impurity, or of greed, because these are improper for God's holy people. ⁴Nor should there be obscenity, foolish talk or coarse joking, which are out of place, but rather thanksgiving. ⁵For of this you can be sure: No immoral, impure or greedy person—such a man is an idolater—has any inheritance in the kingdom of Christ and of God. ⁶Let no one deceive you with empty words, for because of such things God's wrath comes on those who are disobedient." - Ephesians 5:3-6

Sexual immorality – [porneia] – wide variety of unlawful sexual activity, prostitution, adultery, promiscuity

Impurity – [akatharsia] – sexual perversions of various kinds

Greed – [pleonexia] – desire to engage in sexual activity solely for selfish reasons.

Obscenity – [aischrotes] – ugly and shameful language

Foolish Talk – [morologia] – words void of any decency or honor.

Coarse Joking – [eutrapelia] – crude jesting, or dirty insinuations

"⁷Therefore do not be partners with them. ⁸For you were once darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Live as children of light ⁹(for the fruit of the light consists in all goodness, righteousness and truth) ¹⁰and find out what pleases the Lord. ¹¹Have nothing to do with the fruitless deeds of darkness, but rather expose them. ¹²For it is shameful even to mention what the disobedient do in secret. ¹³But everything exposed by the light becomes visible, ¹⁴for it is light that makes everything visible. This is why it is said: "Wake up, O sleeper, rise from the dead, and Christ will shine on you." - Ephesians 5:7-14

"...without the shedding of blood there is no forgiveness" - Hebrews 9:22

"If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness." - 1 John 1:9

Confession restores

Confession reminds

Confession responds

Confession removes

Small Group Questions

- On a scale of 1 – 10, how is your life reflecting God?
 - Was there a time in your life that you were imitating God more (or better) than you are now?
 - When? What has changed?
- Paul challenges us to "live as children of light."
 - When is the last time you had a spiritual conversation with someone far from God?
 - When is the last time someone asked you about your faith?
 - Who (non-believer) are you currently trying to be "light" to?
- Tell the group **how** (not what) you have confessed your failures to God recently.
 - Confession should lead to repentance. Do your confessions lead to you turning away from sin and back to God?
 - If you're comfortable, share with the group an area of your life that you are in this process of confession and repentance.
- This section of Ephesians 5 does not end with verse 14, it goes through verse 21. Read the balance of the text.
 - In what current area of your life are you in need of Godly wisdom?