

Imitator Not Imitation

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Ephesians 5:1-21

Using This Study

❶ EXAMINE His Word

What does God SAY? Open your time with prayer. The words God uses to communicate matters, so go back and pay close attention to the details that are emphasized or repeated in the passage.

❷ EXPLORE His Word

What does God MEAN? Asking questions of the text helps surface how the details relate to the message God wants to communicate.

❸ EMBRACE His Word

Why does it MATTER to me? Embrace God by responding to what you discover in His word in faith and obedience.



In the first verse of Chapter 5 in Ephesians, Paul gives us a very tough challenge. He tells us that we are to be imitators of God. This week we are going to take a closer look at what it means to be an imitator of God. How can we possibly live up to this task? The example that Jesus set is where we must start. We will look at the most important aspects of being an imitator of Christ in hopes of seeing how God can use us to impact the people around us and advance His Kingdom.

① EXAMINE His Word

What does God SAY? Prayerfully note significant details and terms emphasized in the passage.

Read Ephesians 5:1-21 (NET)

¹ Therefore, be imitators of God as dearly loved children

² and live in love, just as Christ also loved us and gave himself for us, a sacrificial and fragrant offering to God.

³ But among you there must not be either sexual immorality, impurity of any kind, or greed, as these are not fitting for the saints.

⁴ Neither should there be vulgar speech, foolish talk, or coarse jesting—all of which are out of character—but rather thanksgiving.

⁵ For you can be confident of this one thing: that no person who is immoral, impure, or greedy (such a person is an idolater) has any inheritance in the kingdom of Christ and God.

⁶ Let nobody deceive you with empty words, for because of these things God's wrath comes on the sons of disobedience.

⁷ Therefore do not be partakers with them,

⁸ for you were at one time darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Walk as children of the light—

⁹ for the fruit of the light consists in all goodness, righteousness, and truth—

¹⁰ trying to learn what is pleasing to the Lord.

¹¹ Do not participate in the unfruitful deeds of darkness, but rather expose them.

¹² For the things they do in secret are shameful even to mention.

¹³ But all things being exposed by the light are made evident.

¹⁴ For everything made evident is light, and for this reason it says:

“Awake, O sleeper!
Rise from the dead,
and Christ will shine on you!”

¹⁵ Therefore be very careful how you live—not as unwise but as wise,

¹⁶ taking advantage of every opportunity, because the days are evil.

¹⁷ For this reason do not be foolish, but be wise by understanding what the Lord's will is.

¹⁸ And do not get drunk with wine, which is debauchery, but be filled by the Spirit,

¹⁹ speaking to one another in psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs, singing and making music in your hearts to the Lord,

²⁰ always giving thanks to God the Father for each other in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ,

²¹ and submitting to one another out of reverence for Christ.

EXPLORE His Word

What does God MEAN?

1. In what ways should we be an imitator of Christ?
2. How does our being an imitator of Christ advance the Gospel?
3. If we are not a strong imitator of Christ, what are some of the negative consequences?
4. In verse 15 it says to live as wise, not as unwise, how are we to live as wise?
5. When is it hardest to be an imitator of Christ?
6. Being a good imitator of Christ is a condition of the heart, not a set of does and don'ts. What is at the heart of the character required to be a good imitator of Christ?
7. When have you seen someone else reflect the character of God in a way that truly impacted the Kingdom?

③ EMBRACE His Word

Why does this MATTER to me?

Summarize your thoughts on the passage:

Write about what God wants you to KNOW, to FEEL, and to DO...

Sermon Notes
