

## We Are Imitators

*"<sup>1</sup>Be imitators of God, therefore, as dearly loved children <sup>2</sup>and 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?

*"<sup>3</sup>But 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. <sup>4</sup>Nor should there be obscenity, foolish talk or coarse joking, which are out of place, but rather thanksgiving. <sup>5</sup>For 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. <sup>6</sup>Let 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

*"<sup>7</sup>Therefore do not be partners with them. <sup>8</sup>For you were once darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Live as children of light <sup>9</sup>(for the fruit of the light consists in all goodness, righteousness and truth) <sup>10</sup>and find out what pleases the Lord. <sup>11</sup>Have nothing to do with the fruitless deeds of darkness, but rather expose them. <sup>12</sup>For it is shameful even to mention what the disobedient do in secret. <sup>13</sup>But everything exposed by the light becomes visible, <sup>14</sup>for 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

1. 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?
2. 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?
3. 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.
4. 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?