

7 Life Lessons from Ephesians

Part 5: Imitate God! (Ephesians 4:17-5:2)

The Big Picture: Be **IMITATORS** of God!
"Therefore be imitators of God, as beloved children. And walk in love." Eph. 5:1,2a ESV



This is new in the N.T. Won't see anywhere in the OT. Doesn't mean that we are "as God" in the Gen 2 sense, but we can be close to him and be "like" Him!



This comes because we are His children. We are to have the desire to be like God as a young child wants to be "like" Dad.



There is a change in the way we live, in the way we walk. We won't be perfect, any more than any child can do what Mom and Dad can do, but there WILL be a change.



The details - What do the "pixels" look like? (5 A's...)

- **Authenticity. Honesty with ourselves and others.**
"What this adds up to, then, is this: no more lies, no more pretense. Tell your neighbor the truth. In Christ's body we're all connected to each other, after all. When you lie to others, you end up lying to yourself. Ephesians 4:25 The Message
- **Anger Management. Doesn't say don't be angry. An emotion Jesus and God demonstrates. We are emotional creatures. The question is how do we handle it? Do not sin. Greater temptation (27). Advice - sun as tool. NCV - "before end of day." MSG - "Don't go to bed angry. GNT Don't stay angry all day.**
"Be angry and do not sin." Ephesians 4:26a ESV
"And don't sin by letting your anger control you. Don't let the sun go down while you are still angry." Eph 4:26 NLT
- **Abundance from Work. Why do we work? So we can be generous. Consider a scale - thief - work enough for myself - work enough for others. We work to provide for others!**
"He who has been stealing must steal no longer, but must work, doing something useful with his own hands, that he may have something to share with those in need." Eph. 4:28 NIV
- **Applaud with words. We've been given speech (unlike all other creatures.) How do we use this great gift? To build up or tear down?**
"Do not use harmful words, but only helpful words, the kind that build up and provide what is needed, so that what you say will do good to those who hear you." Eph. 4:29 GNT
- **Agree with God's Spirit. Don't bring sorrow, sadness, grief to God by doing things we have been freed from. Live in harmony.**
"Don't grieve God. Don't break his heart. His Holy Spirit, moving and breathing in you, is the most intimate part of your life, making you fit for himself. Don't take such a gift for granted." Ephesians 4:30 The Message.

If I struggle with this "new life," imitating God, what do I do? Where do I look?

IN MY MIND !

The wrong example: "in the futility of their minds." Eph. 4:17 ESV

The right example: "to be renewed in the spirit of your minds." Eph. 4:23 ESV