Imitators of God

Greg Kline · Ephesians 5:1–2

INTRODUCTION

- Our place as God's created creatures is to be with our creator.
- We have a lofty standard that we're held to, and that is to be imitators of God.
- Therefore, be imitators of God as beloved children, and walk in love as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God.

1 God Is Love and Shows No Partiality

1 John 4:7–12; Acts 10:34–35; Ephesians 5:1–2

- Anyone who does not love does not know God because, verse 8, God is love.
- We need to know that God's love is sacrificial and it is open to all.
- Truly, I understand that God shows no partiality, but … every nation, anyone who fears him and does what is right is acceptable to him.
- Beloved, if God so loved us, we also ought to love one another.

2 God Continually Offers Forgiveness

1 John 1:9; Matthew 6:14–15

- If we confess our sins, God is … faithful and just to forgive us of our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.
- For if … you forgive others their trespasses, your heavenly Father will also forgive you.
- We might say the words, I forgive you, but do we truly let go of the consequences and the sting of what otherwise might ensnare and embitter us?

3 God Is Always There for His People

Hebrews 13:5–6; 2 Chronicles 33:10–13

- Keep your life free from love of money and be content with what you have, for he has said, I will never leave you nor forsake you.
- It is always me who rejects my God. It is never God who rejects me.
- When God is always there for us, I have to think, am I always there for God?

4 We Have to Be Committed Like God

Ephesians 4:32; Romans 12:9–11; Matthew 18:21–35

- And so we see that the application is clear. We have to be committed like God.
- Be kind to one another. Tenderhearted, forgiving one another. How? As God in Christ forgave you.
- Can you imagine in your marriage, if your spouse was faithful to you 90% of the time? … Why would God be worth any less? Our God is worth our all.

- Do not be slothful in zeal. … Be fervent in spirit. … Serve the Lord.
- So also my heavenly Father will do to every one of you if you do not forgive your brother from your heart.

5 Treat All People with Love

1 Peter 2:13–25; James 2

- Servants, be subject to your masters with all respect, not only to the good and gentle, but also to the unjust.
- Christ also suffered for you, leaving you an example so that you might follow in his steps.
- When he was reviled, he did not revile in return. When he suffered, he did not threaten.
- Treating all people with love, whether we feel like we deserve it, or whether we know we deserve it or not.

6 Look Carefully How You Walk

Ephesians 5:15–17; Galatians 4:4

- Look carefully then how you walk, not as unwise, but as wise, making the best use of the time because the days are evil.
- When we have our opportunities, if we're going to be imitators of God, we have to take them.
- Looking carefully takes the same amount of thought, effort, and sacrifice that being imitators of God does because they're one in the same.

> THE CHALLENGE
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> **What does it mean to be imitators of God? It means to love as God loved us. It means to forgive as we wish to be forgiven by God.**

MY NOTES