

***In the heavenly realm (Series)***  
**Lesson # 5“Be imitators of God”**

Ephesians 5:1 – 6:9

**Scripture:** Ephesians 6:12 “For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the powers, against the world forces of this darkness, against the spiritual forces of wickedness in the heavenly places.”

**Introduction:**

When it comes to our personal family, Charity and I are very blessed. God has given us (My Three Sons) who will carry our family name well into the future. My hope is that we are raising three gospel preachers....well maybe two and one song leader/Christian comedian.

Raising boys has been a great and wonderful challenge. Truth be known I want them to grow up to be just like me...an extension of who I am.

I remember when Taylor was little we were sitting in church one Sunday in Lockney Texas and I crossed my leg as I listened to brother Russell Harris’ sermon. Out of the corner of my eye I saw Taylor, who was 2 or 3 years old, cross his leg in the same way that I had crossed mine. I waited a minute or so and took my leg down and sure enough he did the same. In a few minutes I crossed the other leg and sure enough he did the same.

You see, Taylor looked up to me and wanted to be just like me. What he saw in me he admired and he wanted to grow up and be like his dad.

Boy let me tell you as a father that was one of the greatest moments of my life. It made me feel good to think I was that important to him. My chest puffed up and I remember the greatest feeling of joy and probably one of the biggest smiles I have ever had on my face.

**Transitional Statement:**

You know God wants us to be like Him, He wants us to be an extension of Him on earth. Ephesians 5:1 “Therefore be imitators of God, as beloved children;”

**Lesson:**

**I. We Imitate God by Walking in Love (Verses 2)**

Ephesians 5:2 “and walk in love, just as Christ also loved you and gave Himself up for us, an offering and a sacrifice to God as a fragrant aroma.”

- A. The word love here is agape and we usually define it as an unconditional love but here its meaning is taken much further in that we are to love like Christ in a sacrificial manner that is an offering to God.

1. The kind of love Jesus showed the world was one that was willing to sacrifice himself...selfless love. He put others needs ahead of his own, like Paul talks about in Phil. 2:3-4. All this was done with the remembrance that His life was an offering to God.
  2. This kind of love smelled good to God
- B. In opposition to walking in love (Verses 3-6)
1. 3 But immorality or any impurity or greed must not even be named among you, as is proper among saints; 4 and there must be no filthiness and silly talk, or coarse jesting, which are not fitting, but rather giving of thanks.
    - a. This is Selfishness (Sin)
    - b. It is Stinky to God
  2. 5 For this you know with certainty, that no immoral or impure person or covetous man, who is an idolater, has an inheritance in the kingdom of Christ and God.
    - a. No heaven
  3. 6 Let no one deceive you with empty words, for because of these things the wrath of God comes upon the sons of disobedience. 7 Therefore do not be partakers with them;
    - a. God's wrath will come on these people
    - b. Don't be participants with them

## II. We Imitate God by Walking as children of light (Verses 7-14)

8 for you were formerly darkness, but now you are Light in the Lord; walk as children of Light

\*\*God expects us to walk in the light as He is in the light 1 John 1:7

\*\*Is it any wonder that the word church (meaning called out) is used six times in this chapter....Called out of darkness and into the light!

-We are lamination for the world, in that we carry the light of God.

HOW DO WE WALK AS CHILDREN OF LIGHT?

- A. 9 (for the fruit of the Light consists in all goodness and righteousness and truth),
  - Bear the fruit
  - Matt 3:10 "The axe is at the root of the tree..."
- B. 10 trying to learn what is pleasing to the Lord.
  - Figure out what pleases God
- C. 11 Do not participate in the unfruitful deeds of darkness, but instead even expose them; 12 for it is disgraceful even to speak of the things which are done by them in secret.
  - Expose sin...Correct
    - \*By Shinning Jesus on them
    - So the truth will be established

- To help the sinner
- And protect other saints

#### THE OUTCOME

- D. 13 But all things become visible when they are exposed by the light, for everything that becomes visible is light.  
 -Correction brings visibility and enlightens

14 For this reason it says,

"Awake, sleeper,  
 And arise from the dead,  
 And Christ will shine on you."

- The correction of Christ brings resurrection from the death of sin

### III. We Imitate God by Walking Wisely (Verses 15-20)

15 Therefore be careful how you walk, not as unwise men but as wise,

- A. 16 making the most of your time, because the days are evil.
- B. 17 So then do not be foolish, but understand what the will of the Lord is.
- C. 18 And do not get drunk with wine, for that is dissipation, but be filled with the Spirit.
- D. 19a speaking to one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs,  
 -Encouraging and Edifying each other
- E. 19b singing and making melody with your heart to the Lord;  
 -In the old testament the law appealed to the external senses, but the new covenant was meant to be internal of the heart.
- F. 20 always giving thanks for all things in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to God, even the Father;

### Two key concepts to understand if we are to walk worthy and imitate God.

#### 1. Subjection

- Subjection means to be in subordination, voluntarily placing ones self under

21 and be subject to one another in the fear of Christ.

- This idea starts with the concept of being subject to each other. In other words nobody is to regard themselves as better than anyone else.

#### THE GODLY FAMILY STRUCTURE

22 Wives, be subject to your own husbands, as to the Lord. 23 For the husband is the head of the wife, as Christ also is the head of the church, He Himself being the Savior of the body. 24 But as the church is subject to Christ, so also the wives ought to be to their husbands in everything.

#### HUSBANDS BE LIKE CHRIST

25 Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ also loved the church and gave Himself up for her, 26 so that He might sanctify her, having cleansed her by the washing of water with the word, 27 that He might present to Himself the church in all her glory, having no

spot or wrinkle or any such thing; but that she would be holy and blameless. 28 So husbands ought also to love their own wives as their own bodies. He who loves his own wife loves himself; 29 for no one ever hated his own flesh, but nourishes and cherishes it, just as Christ also does the church, 30 because we are members of His body. 31 **FOR THIS REASON A MAN SHALL LEAVE HIS FATHER AND MOTHER AND SHALL BE JOINED TO HIS WIFE, AND THE TWO SHALL BECOME ONE FLESH.**

**\*\*\*What he is really referring to is Christ and the Church**

32 This mystery is great; but I am speaking with reference to Christ and the church.

**THE CHURCH IS SUPPOSE TO RESPECT CHRIST AND SUBMIT TO HIM!**

33 Nevertheless, each individual among you also is to love his own wife even as himself, and the wife must see to it that she respects her husband.

## **2. Obedience**

-The children talked about up until this point are God's people and here God connects the idea of obedience to understanding authority, honor and what is right

Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right. 2 **HONOR YOUR FATHER AND MOTHER** (which is the first commandment with a promise), 3 **SO THAT IT MAY BE WELL WITH YOU, AND THAT YOU MAY LIVE LONG ON THE EARTH.**

4 Fathers, do not provoke your children to anger, but bring them up in the discipline and instruction of the Lord.

**FROM THE HEART NOT BECAUSE YOU HAVE TO**

5 Slaves, be obedient to those who are your masters according to the flesh, with fear and trembling, in the sincerity of your heart, as to Christ; 6 not by way of eye service, as men-pleasers, but as slaves of Christ, doing the will of God from the heart. 7 With good will render service, as to the Lord, and not to men, 8 knowing that whatever good thing each one does, this he will receive back from the Lord, whether slave or free.

9 And masters, do the same things to them, and give up threatening, knowing that both their Master and yours is in heaven, and there is no partiality with Him.

### **Conclusion:**

**-Do you have sacrificial love for those around you?**

**-Do you live in the light?**

**-Do you seek God's wisdom in your life?**

**-Are you in subjection to God?**

**-Have you been obedient to God?**