

Watch what God does, and then you do it, like children who learn proper behavior from their parents. Mostly what God does is love you. Keep company with him and learn a life of love. Observe how Christ loved us. His love was not cautious but extravagant. He didn't love in order to get something from us but to give everything of himself to us. Love like that.


Ephesians 5:1-2

## "We ARE Imitators"

August 26, 2018

- Five lies of identity:**
1. I am what I **have**.
  2. I am what I **do**.
  3. I am what other people **say** about me.
  4. I am nothing more than my **worst** moment.
  5. I am nothing less than my \_\_\_\_\_ moment.


**The Problem:** We all make \_\_\_\_\_.  
\_\_\_\_\_ is the key. But it doesn't always \_\_\_\_\_ us. Mt. 18:21-35

 *Smile five times a day at someone you don't really want to smile at; do it for peace. – Mother Teresa*

**Context:** Paul is in jail in Rome awaiting trial before Nero (AD 64). Ephesians is an open letter to the \_\_\_\_\_ churches Paul started. Paul's aim for these churches was both **unity** and \_\_\_\_\_. Eph. 4:17 We are one body connected and influencing one another.

**The Challenge:** Our behavior affects the \_\_\_\_\_ of the community. \_\_\_\_\_ replaces lying, \_\_\_\_\_ replaces interrupting. 4:26-28  
\_\_\_\_\_ replaces greed, \_\_\_\_\_ replaces anger, \_\_\_\_\_ replaces theft, \_\_\_\_\_ within a covenantal relationship replaces using others.  
Our speech is to be \_\_\_\_\_ or \_\_\_\_\_. 4:29

**How Is This Vision of Kingdom Life Possible?** Ephesians 5:1-2 NRSV  
*"Live in \_\_\_\_\_, as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us."*

 *Imitating God isn't just about looking more like God. It's also about looking less like the world. – John Vick*

5:3-5, We are to \_\_\_\_\_ people and \_\_\_\_\_ things.

5:8-11, *"Live as children of \_\_\_\_\_."*

Look for what is \_\_\_\_\_ and right and \_\_\_\_\_.

*"Sleeper, awake! Rise from the dead, and Christ will shine on you."*

**A Note to Men & Women:** 5:21

*"Be \_\_\_\_\_ to one another out of reverence for Christ."*

Don't get \_\_\_\_\_ or even a roommate if you won't \_\_\_\_\_ to others.

**Action Steps:** How have I grown in my spiritual formation this year?  
What is my \_\_\_\_\_ to grow/mature in Christ this next year?  
\_\_\_\_\_ today to mature in faith and grow in love with God and others.