

Walk in Love Ephesians 5:1-4

4:32 God in Christ forgave you.

Chapter 5

Vs. 1 – Beloved children imitating God

Therefore - refers back to “God in Christ forgave you.”

Be Imitators of God

- **Because of who we are: “the forgiven”**
(Mathew 18:21-35 Parable of the unforgiving servant)
- **Because of who He is: “the Sacrificial Forgiver”**
- **Imitate God rather than the world around you – Rom. 12:2**
 - A. In our forgiveness
 1. How might the world counsel us to respond when someone wrongs us?
 2. How would God counsel us? - Mark 11:25
 3. What helps us forgive *anyone* of *anything*?
 - a. The Holy Spirit
 - b. Knowing that God in Christ forgave us (and He knows everything we’ve ever done against Him)
 - c. Knowing that unforgiveness is a serious sign that we may not be part of “the forgiven”

Note: - Sacrificial forgiveness is still hard enough to need to be supernatural
- It doesn’t sweep away issues of: Consequences and Re-establishing trust

- B. In other ways - to imitate God, we first need to know Him - Jer 9:24
(otherwise we might be mimicking an idol)

Attributes of God

Communicable

and

Incommunicable

As a Beloved child of God (like Jesus): Mt 3:17

1. **Amazing and affirming** – 1 John 3:1-2

2. **Our problem is, we tend to doubt that we personally are a much-loved child of God**

Vs. 2 – Sacrificially walking in love like

- **Knowing that we are loved**
- **We are called to be sacrificially loving, like Jesus**
 - Giving ourself up
 - For someone else
 - As a fragrant sacrifice for God's glory
- **By His sacrifice, He puts you in His place as a beloved child of God – Eph. 1:5-6**

Vs. 3,4 - The perversions of love:

1. In Actions and Attitudes

- **Sexual immorality** – *porneia* - lack of restraint, outside of appropriate boundaries. Job 31:9,12; 1 Peter 2:11
- **Impurity** – internal filth – Matt. 23:27; Titus 1:15; Matt. 6:22-23
- **Covetousness** - a strong desire for personal benefit, often at the expense of others.
Marketing constantly fans the flames of our discontent and greed

2. In Words

- **Filthiness** – ugly, shameful - Eph. 4:29; Matt. 12:34
- **Foolish talk:** not mentally deficient, but morally deficient
- **Crude joking:** to turn a phrase = innuendos and double meanings
- **Replace them with thanksgiving**
Values rather than ignoring or demeaning the Giver of all good gifts
Values what has been given