

Ephesians 5:1-7

Imitate God

Points to Consider

1. Imitate God's Love
2. Imitate Christ's Love
3. Don't Imitate the World

Imitate God's Love

Eph 5:1-2 - We are to be _____ of God as dear children. (1)

Eph 4:31-32 *Let all bitterness, wrath, anger, clamor, and evil speaking be put away from you, with all malice. 32 And be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God in Christ forgave you.* NKJV

We are to imitate God in his _____, his compassion, and his forgiveness.

I should treat you like _____ treats you, and you should treat me like God treats me.

We get our word _____ from the Greek word that is translated imitators. Some translations say followers.

We are to imitate God's _____.

John 3:16-17 *For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life. 17 For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world through Him might be saved.* NKJV

God so loved us that he _____ His Son to save us not condemn us.

Eph 2:4-7 *But God, who is rich in mercy, because of His great love with which He loved us, 5 even when we were dead in trespasses, made us alive together with Christ (by grace you have been saved), 6 and raised us up together, and made us sit together in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus, 7 that in the ages to come He might show the exceeding riches of His grace in His kindness toward us in Christ Jesus.* NKJV

It was because of God's _____ love that he made us alive and raised us up to sit in the heavenly places.

Rom 8:37-39 *Yet in all these things we are more than conquerors through Him who loved us. 38 For I am persuaded that neither death nor life, nor angels nor principalities nor powers, nor things present nor things to come, 39 nor height nor depth, nor any other created thing, shall be able to separate us from the love of God which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.* NKJV

_____ can separate us from the love of God, not even our sin. Sin separates us from God but not His love.

Luke 15:20-32 - The older son should have _____ his father in dealing with his brother.

Practical Application: Imitate God's love by giving something to someone. This can be a family member, a fellow Christian, a friend, or a stranger.

Imitate Christ's Love

We are to _____ in love as _____ walked in love and gave Himself for us. (2)

Mark 10:17-22 Jesus loved the rich young ruler enough to tell him the _____ about what he needed to do to inherit eternal life.

In Eph 4:25 we find out that we are to speak truth to one another since we are members of one another.

Gal 2:20 *I have been crucified with Christ; it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me; and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself for me.* NKJV

Christ **gave** Himself for us.

1 John 3:16-23 We imitate Christ when we lay down our _____ for the brethren.

We imitate Christ when we love in _____ and not only in word.

When we imitate Christ's love, we have _____ toward God.

When we imitate Christ's love, He hears and **answers** our prayers.

2 Cor 5:14-21

Christ's love _____ us to become ambassadors for Him to plead with others to be reconciled to God.

Practical Application: Lay down your life for someone by serving them. Give them something that you spent time doing. There is a difference in giving someone \$20 and giving someone 2 hours.

Don't Imitate the World

Ephesians 5:3

Fornication, uncleanness, and covetousness should not even be named among saints.

Other things that are _____ for Christians are filthiness, foolish talking and coarse jesting.

Those who do these things will not inherit the kingdom of heaven.

These things are why God pours His _____ out on the sons of disobedience.

Rom 1:32 *who, knowing the righteous judgment of God, that those who practice such things are deserving of death, not only do the same but also approve of those who practice them.* NKJV

Christians are _____ to approve of those who practice these things.

What is fitting for a saint?

What we should do is give _____.

Practical Application: Take one action this week that lessens the world's influence on you. As you think about making resolutions for the new year, determine to take specific steps to stop being partakers of the sinful ways of this world.