

"Be Like God"  
Ephesians 5:1-7

Remember growing up - SOMETHING YOU DIDN'T LIKE ABOUT PARENTS?

"when I am grown up, I will never be like that"

SOBERING FEELING - LOOK IN MIRROR - YOU ARE LIKE THAT  
CHILDREN - SEE THEM REFLECTING JUST HOW YOU ARE!

TRUTH - children are like parents - ENCOURAGING & EMBARRASSING

v. 1 "Be imitators of God, therefore, as dearly loved children"

ONLY TIME IN ALL OF BIBLE ITS PUT LIKE THAT - MIMIC GOD

HOW COULD SINFUL CREATURES POSSIBLY BE LIKE HOLY  
CREATOR?

MORTAL MAN MIMIC AN IMMORTAL GOD?

THINK OF GOD'S ATTRIBUTES - DESCRIPTIONS OF HIS BEING

COMMUNICABLE AND INCOMMUNICABLE - not talking about diseases

QUALITIES ABOUT GOD THAT WE CAN NEVER SHARE - THOSE WE CAN

INCOMMUNICABLE ATTRIBUTES -

- 1) SELF EXISTENT - God has no origins, is answerable to no one
- 2) SELF SUFFICIENT - God has no needs and depends on no one
- 3) ETERNAL - God has always existed and will always exist
- 4) OMNIPOTENT - God is all powerful, there is nothing He cannot do
- 5) OMNIPRESENT - God is everywhere at once
- 6) OMNISCIENT - God knows all things, nothing hidden from Him

GOD'S DAY TIMER -

MONDAY "Everywhere" / "All the Time" / "Do All" / "Know everything

TUESDAY - WEDNESDAY - THURSDAY - FRIDAY .....

THESE ARE THINGS WE CAN NEVER IMITATE -

even if we become Shirley McLaine

## TWO THINGS EVERY NEW AGER SHOULD KNOW

1) there is a God 2) You are not Him

THERE ARE QUALITIES OF GOD THAT WE CAN & SHOULD "CATCH"  
COMMUNICABLE - LOVE, TRUTH, HOLINESS, JUSTICE

"man I just came down with a bad case of the love of God"

4 X's in NT - Biblical writers state - God is....

EACH OF THOSE FOUND HERE IN THIS PASSAGE

Š □1. God is Love□ 1 John 4:8

a. the Father WE ARE DEARLY LOVED BY OUR HEAVENLY FATHER

v. 1 "Be imitators of God, therefore, as dearly loved children"

CAN YOU BELIEVE IT - Behold, what manner of love... SHOCKING!!

1Jn 3:1 How great is the love the Father has lavished on us, that □  
we should be called children of God! And that is what we are!

FORGIVING LOVE - SACRIFICIAL LOVE

Eph 4:32 Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving □  
each other, just as in Christ God forgave you.

LOVE THAT MOVED GOD TO PROVIDE OUR FORGIVENESS

John 3:16 "God so loved the world that he gave his only Son"

1 John 4:10 This is love: not that we loved God, but that he □  
loved us and sent his Son as an atoning sacrifice for our sins.

Romans 5:8 But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: □

While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.

## IMAGINE YOURSELF SLAYING YOUR ONLY CHILD FOR UNGRATEFUL SINNERS

b. the Son BECAUSE OF LOVE JESUS OBEYED AND WILLINGLY CAME TO DIE

v. 2 Christ loved us and gave himself up for us as a fragrant   
offering and sacrifice to God.

## GREAT EXAMPLE OF THE SELF-GIVING LOVE OF GOD - WILLING VICTIM

Mark 10:32 They were on their way up to Jerusalem, with Jesus   
leading the way, and the disciples were astonished, while those   
who followed were afraid.

## DISCIPLES TRAILED BEHIND IN FEAR - JESUS FORCED HIS WAY TO CROSS

John 10:18 No one takes it from me, but I lay it down of my   
own accord. I have authority to lay it down and authority to take   
it up again.

1 John 3:16 This is how we know what love is: Jesus Christ   
laid down his life for us.

Galatians 2:20 I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me   
and gave himself for me.

John 15:13 Greater love has no one than this, that he lay   
down his life for his friends.

Š□c. the siblings□ WE FOLLOW EXAMPLE OF FATHER & ELDER BROTHER

{2} and live a life of love, just as Christ loved

Ephesians 4:32 Be kind and compassionate to one another, □  
forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you.

GREAT NEED IN OUR CHURCH / FAMILIES / COMMUNITIES FOR FORGIVENESS

SO MANY BITTER PEOPLE WHO REFUSE TO FORGIVE AND FORGET - DESTROYS

DIRECTOR OF ONE OF LARGEST MENTAL HOSPITALS IN ENGLAND

"I could dismiss half of my patients tomorrow if they could be □  
assured of forgiveness"

HOW CAN WE TELL THE WORLD THEY HAVE IT FROM GOD  
WHEN THEY CANNOT SEE IT AT WORK IN US?

PAUL WENT INTO GENTILE AREAS WHERE THEY HAD NEVER SEEN A XTIAN

1 Cor 11:1 Follow my example, as I follow the example of Christ.

HE WAS THE ONLY CHRIST THEY WOULD EVER SEE  
WE ARE THE ONLY BIBLE MANY PEOPLE WILL EVER READ

2 Cor 3:2 PAUL TOLD THESE SAME CORINTHIANS

You yourselves are our letter...known and read by everybody.

2. God is Light 1 John 1:5

1 John 1:5 God is light; in him there is no darkness at all.

WE ARE TO WALK IN HIS LIGHT OF MORAL PURITY

DIFF. BETWEEN LOVE AND LUST - many today never know REAL LOVE  
SIMPLE TEST - LOVE - SEEKS TO GIVE // LUST - SEEKS TO GET

a. Holy Walk 3} But among you there must not be even a hint of   
sexual immorality, or of any kind of impurity, or of greed,   
because these are improper for God's holy people.

### THE RISEN JESUS WANTS TO TRANSFORM

1) what we are 2) how we think 3) how we act

### LIGHT OF GOSPEL PENETRATES DEEPEST DARK CORNERS

"any kind of impurity or greed -- not even a hint of them"

### IMPURITY LEADS TO GREED - UNCONTROLLABLE APPETITES FOR SIN

Habakkuk 1:12,13 O LORD, are you not from everlasting? My God,   
my Holy One...Your eyes are too pure to look on evil; you cannot   
tolerate wrong.

Šb. Holy Talk "dirty minds heard in dirty conversations"

{4} Nor should there be obscenity, foolish talk or coarse joking,   
which are out of place

JESTING - def. "able to turn easily" SUBTLE ENTRANCE OF SIN  
LAUGHING AT SOMETHING FUNNY - MORAL - CONVERSATION  
TURNS EVIL

COMEDIANS MONOLOGUE - throws in dirty joke when gets you laughing

OBSCENITY no regard for standards - person with no respect, SHAME

FOOLISH lit. "moron" "logos" - WORDS OF MORONS

COARSE JOKERS - humor at its lowest form - dirty talk

SHOWS OUR FALLENESS - shameless, moronic, dirt SO POPULAR TODAY

v. 3 "not even a hint"

WHERE WERE THESE NEW CHRISTIANS? ISOLATED MONASTERY? -  
Ephesus!

New Orleans

CENTER OF IMMORALITY - make the French Quarter look tame

GODDESS OF EPHESIANS - Diana or Artemis

leave it to your imagination how she was worshipped

CAN LIVE IN THE REAL WORLD AND HAVE HOLY WALK AND HOLY  
TALK

WHAT IS THE KEY?

Colossians 3:16 Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly as   
you teach and admonish one another with all wisdom, and as you   
sing psalms, hymns and spiritual songs with gratitude in your   
hearts to God.

c. Holy Heart TO BE INHABITED BY A HOLY GOD

{5} For of this you can be sure: No immoral, impure or greedy   
person--such a man is an idolater--has any inheritance in the   
kingdom of Christ and of God.

MORAL PROBLEM IS ROOTED IN A THEOLOGICAL PROBLEM -  
IDOLATRY

HOW WE BEHAVE SHOWS WHO WE BELIEVE IN - OR DON'T BELIEVE  
IN

PREMISE OF EPHESIANS - BELIEF SHAPES BEHAVIOR - Chs 1/3 - 4/6

CONVERSE - PEOPLE WHO DENY GOD HAVE A DEEP MORAL  
PROBLEM

BILL GOTHARD SEMINAR - went w/ girl from Panama -  
hot tempered father who hated Christianity - argued - fought

"WE JUST LEARNED THAT PEOPLE WHO GIVE INTELLECTUAL ARGUMENTS  AGAINST GOD HAVE A DEEP ROOTED MORAL PROBLEM"  
Girl banned from attending church again - Father later converted

Colossians 1:13 For he has rescued us from the dominion of  darkness and brought us into the kingdom of the Son he loves

1 Peter 3:15 in your hearts set apart Christ as Lord

### 3. God is Spirit John 4:24

John 4:24 God is spirit, and his worshipers must worship in  spirit and in truth."

a. Power v. 18 Zechariah 4.6 Galatians 4.6,7

Ephesians 5:18 "be filled with the Spirit." COMMAND

Zechariah 4:6 GOD WILL DO HIS WORK IN US  
'Not by might nor by power, but by my Spirit,' says the LORD  Almighty.

Galatians 4:6,7 Because you are sons, God sent the Spirit of  his Son into our hearts

b. Positive v. 4 "but rather thanksgiving".

### HOLY SPIRIT GIVES US A NEW WAY OF LOOKING AT LIFE

1 Corinthians 2:11,12 For who among men knows the thoughts of a  man except the man's spirit within him? In the same way no one  knows the thoughts of God except the Spirit of God. We have not  received the spirit of the world but the Spirit who is from God,

that we may understand what God has freely given us.

IT IS BY THE SPIRIT THAT WE CAN PROPERLY INTERPRET LIFE

DEVIL WANTS TO TAKE GOOD GIFTS OF LOVE, SHARING, TALK, SEX  
AND USE THEM FOR HIS NEGATIVE, DEADLY ENDS  
HE IS NOT GOD / A CREATOR / HE DISTORTS THE GOOD THINGS OF  
GOD

1 Thessalonians 5:18 give thanks in all circumstances

Romans 1:21 For although they knew God, they neither glorified   
him as God nor gave thanks to him, but their thinking became   
futile and their foolish hearts were darkened...Therefore God   
gave them over in the sinful desires of their hearts to sexual   
impurity

1) Thankful for Sex - NOT IMMORAL

2) Thankful for Material Possessions - NOT GREEDY

3) Thankful for Truth - NOT SPEAKING LIKE A FOOL

Š 4. God is a Consuming Fire Hebrews 12:29

Hebrews 12:29for our "God is a consuming fire."

Hebrews 12:28Therefore, since we are receiving a kingdom that   
cannot be shaken, let us be thankful, and so worship God   
acceptably with reverence and awe

a. Separation {7} Therefore do not be partners with them.



2 Corinthians 6:14 Do not be yoked together with unbelievers. For what do righteousness and wickedness have in common? Or what fellowship can light have with darkness?...17 "Therefore come out from them and be separate, the Lord. Touch no unclean thing, and I will receive you." "I will be a Father to you, and you will be my sons and daughters, says the Lord Almighty."

## b. Salvation

{5} For of this you can be sure: No immoral, impure or greedy person--such a man is an idolater--has any inheritance in the kingdom of Christ and of God. {6} Let no one deceive you with empty words, for because of such things God's wrath comes on those who are disobedient.

## GOD'S WRATH IS NOT AN EMPTY THREAT - LOVE TEMPERED BY JUSTICE

Luke 17:28-32 "in the days of Lot. People were eating and drinking, buying and selling, planting and building. But the day Lot left Sodom, fire and sulfur rained down from heaven and destroyed them all...." "It will be just like this on the day the Son of Man is revealed. On that day no one who is on the roof of his house, with his goods inside, should go down to get them. Likewise, no one in the field should go back for anything. Remember Lot's wife!

## PEOPLE AT FEDERAL BUILDING IN OKLAHOMA CITY - NEVER IMAGINED WORLD ENDED IN A BLAST - FIERY SECOND

Luke 18:8 when the Son of Man comes, will he find faith on the earth?"