

Message Series:

Membership Has Its Privileges: Walking with Christ A Study of Ephesians 4-6

Message for Sunday, May 2:

Be Like God! Ephesians 5:1-5

¹Therefore be imitators of God, as beloved children; ²and 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.

Ephesians 5:1-2 (NASB95)

Today's Main Thought: Growing followers of Jesus Christ are required to strive for the life which imitates God.

God is imitated in my life when I'm:

- **Walking** in love as God walks in love (refer back to v. 32; *John 3:16; Romans 5:8; 1 John 4:10; 16*).
- **Giving** love to others as Jesus Christ gave love to humanity (v. 2; *Philippians 2:5-8*).
- Making every effort to allow God's love to be **active** in my life (vv. 3-5; refer back to vv.25-31; *also read Eph 5:6-14*).

God's transferrable attributes (attributes we share with God)

- **Loving**, slow to anger, **forgiving**, wisdom, **merciful**, good, **faithful**, **compassionate** kind, and **tender** (*Exodus 34:6; Psalms 86:15; 103:8; 108:4; Joel 2:13; Romans 2:4*)

God's non-transferrable attributes (attributes we do not share with God)

- God is **self-existent**; *God has no origins and consequently is answerable to no one.*
- God is **self-sufficient**; *God has no needs therefore depends on no one.*
- God is **eternal**; *God has always existed and will always exist.*

Getting Started

Read Ephesians 5:1-14.

Digging Deeper

What three standards does Paul set for Christian living in verses 1, 2 and 8? What should characterize those who are imitating God? Of the three discussed Sunday, which is more challenging to imitate?

- Walking in forgiving love
- Giving love to others
- Living out the attributes that followers of Christ share with God

Living It Out

Give God the praise for areas of growth. Ask God to give you strength to continue to strive and wrestle with the areas in which you need to continue to grow. Thursday, May 6 is the National Day of Prayer. Spend time Thursday praying for the nation and our national and local leaders.

Next Week: Special Mother's Day Message
Pastor Rodney Lara