

Ephesians 5a

1 Imitate God! Be like your Father. That implies having all the communicable attributes of God, the fruits of the Spirit. The only way to do that is to be a new creation in Christ. It must be His very life in us. The preceding verse gives a specific – then this verse carries on the thought in every area of life. Lev 11:45 Luke 6:35-36, 1John 4:11 God is our standard!

2 The imitation of God starts with a life of love. This was Christ's command (John 13:34). Would people describe your life as a life of love, even for those with which you struggle? "Just as Christ gave himself up for us" – no holds barred kind of love, to the death. Give ourselves as a life that is sweet smelling sacrifice. The picture is of the sacrifice in the temple that is combined with incense. It is the Romans 12:1-2 picture of a living sacrifice. The Old Testament type of a lamb on the altar show us that we must be dead to self. That is a pleasing aroma to God.

3 As God's holy people, representing Him as His sons and daughters there should not be even a hint of: 1 sexual immorality 2 any kind of impurity 3 greed. All of these must not even be hinted at in our lives. Where does that leave sexual innuendoes? I think we have become so dulled by our entertainment world, we have a hard time even imagining where Paul is drawing the line here. Not even a hint of impurity is becoming of God's holy people. Neither is any hint of greed. Where does that leave the lottery, or talk of getting rich, or withholding resources God has blessed us with? Greed is referred to as idolatry. Colossians 3:5; Matthew 15:19; Romans 6:13

4 The words from our mouths should not be course joking, foolish talk or obscene in any way. Instead thanks and praise to God should come from our lips. This is following the thought in the first verse of what a life looks like that imitates God.

5 To remain in that old worldly life style means that you are not really a new creation. It would grieve you too much to remain in it. If you are comfortable there, nothing has changed in your heart. The Kingdom does not include destructive evil. People exclude themselves by insisting on evil. 1 Corinthians 6:9-10; Galatians 5:19,21

6 Colossians 3:6 Don't be fooled. God does not let these things go unpunished. There will be judgement on the wicked hearts of men that produce these acts. False prophets often declare immorality as something good or at least something that will not be punished. They justify there own actions and lead others astray. Don't be tricked by the desires of the flesh into believing their lies.

7 Don't team up with those kind of people. You may end up being harmed by the judgements that come their way because of their actions.

8 That used to be your life. But you have clothed yourself with Christ. See 4:18,24; Romans 13:14; John 1:4,5,9,12 Think about the analogy of darkness and light. It is used in the Old Testament also. Isaiah 9:2 Some of those prophecies of the Light coming are Messianic. Colossians 1:13; 1Thessalonians 5:4-8 It probably goes all the way back to Genesis 1.

9 The fruit of the light is the fruit of the Spirit. Galatians 5:22-23, 3John 1:11

10 What pleases God? Living sacrifices! (Romans 12:1) In Romans 14:18 Paul teaches that denying our preferences and rights for our weaker brother pleases God. Prayer and peaceful lives please God (1Timothy 2:3).

11-14 Don't even talk about the deeds of darkness. Paul gives a list of the fruits of the flesh in Galatians 5:19-21. We are not supposed to associate or be connected with or even talk about them. We must realize they end in destruction. Your life in the light exposes the darkness around you. Lev 19:17

15 Wisdom walks in the fear of the LORD. The unwise please their sinful nature to their own destruction. Philippians 1:27

16 Time in which to be a participant in the battle between light and darkness is limited. We need to make the most of any opportunity we are given to share the light. The light will liberate the captives by exposing the destructive nature of the darkness. Galatians 6:10; Colossians 4:5; John 12:35

17 The best way to redeem the time (make the most of opportunities) is to understand the will of the LORD in a given situation. Paul goes on to describe it in generalities, but the life of Christ and even that of the Apostle Paul teaches us that walking in tune with the Holy Spirit is the way to be a light to the world around us. Only by letting His life flow through us can we truly see the will of God in any situation. Colossians 1:9; 1Thessalonians 5:18

18 Don't be satisfied with the things of the world. Instead, find your satisfaction in a life overflowing with the Spirit of God. Then the will of God will be easier to discern. That is the life that is pleasing to God.

19-20 A life overflowing with the spirit expresses itself in songs, to one another and to the LORD. The whining, complaining spirit is not godly. We can check our maturity by checking our level of gratitude. We should be thankful for everything because our Sovereign Lord is working all things together for good. A mature believer walks by faith and counts the trials as pure joy. James 1:2