

## Imitating Our Father

Ephesians 5:1-13

*Isn't it strange how we catch ourselves sometime acting just like our father or mother...*

*Oh no I am acting like my father/mother*

*I call Robyn, Ethel sometimes when she acts like her mother... Always in a good sense of course.*

*Guys it's probably ok to compare them to their mother but Never compare them to your mother!*

*Often, I do things and think that sounded a lot like Daddy.*

*Last week we looked at the names of God and saw that He is our Father and we are His children.*

**Be ye therefore followers of God, as dear children;**

*Having been born again through faith in Christ, he is therefore one of the "partakers of the divine nature"*

*2 Peter 1:4*

*Whereby are given unto us exceeding great and precious promises: that by these ye might be partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust.*

***<sup>2</sup> And walk in love, as Christ also hath loved us, and hath given himself for us an offering and a sacrifice to God for a sweetsmelling savour.***

*Paul told them to "walk in love," he was not telling them to do something that was strange or difficult to the Christian life; because we have received a new nature that wants to express itself in love.*

***1 John 4:8***

***He that loveth not knoweth not God; for God is love.***

*The Holy Spirit puts this love in our hearts*

*Rom. 5:5*

*And hope maketh not ashamed; because the love of God is shed abroad in our hearts by the Holy Ghost which is given unto us.*

*The idea behind "sweet savor" is simply that the sacrifice is well pleasing to God.*

*This does not suggest that God is pleased that sin demands death, and that His Son had to die to save lost sinners.*

*Rather, it indicates that the death of Christ satisfies the holy law of God and therefore is acceptable and pleasing to the Father*

<sup>3</sup> But fornication, and all uncleanness, or covetousness, let it not be once named among you, as becometh saints;

<sup>4</sup> Neither filthiness, nor foolish talking, nor jesting, which are not convenient: but rather giving of thanks.

*These things are not characteristics of our Father*

*It's like Paul says; if you can't find anything else to do or say than this perversion, you could at least praise God for all He has done, rather than act out like this.*

<sup>5</sup> For this ye know, that no whoremonger, nor unclean person, nor covetous man, who is an idolater, hath any inheritance in the kingdom of Christ and of God.

<sup>6</sup> Let no man deceive you with vain words: for because of these things cometh the wrath of God upon the children of disobedience.

*Galatians 5:21, 1 Corinthians 6:9, Rev. 21:8*

*A Christian is not sinless, but he does sin less—and less—and less!*

<sup>7</sup> Be not ye therefore partakers with them.

<sup>8</sup> For ye were sometimes darkness, but now are ye light in the Lord: walk as children of light:

*1 Corinthians 6:9-11*

*<sup>9</sup> Know ye not that the unrighteous shall not inherit the kingdom of God? Be not deceived: neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor effeminate, nor abusers of themselves with mankind,*

*<sup>10</sup> Nor thieves, nor covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor extortioners, shall inherit the kingdom of God.*

*<sup>11</sup> And such were some of you: but ye are washed, but ye are sanctified, but ye are justified in the name of the Lord Jesus, and by the Spirit of our God.*

*Romans 8:14-17*

*<sup>14</sup> For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, they are the sons of God.*

*<sup>15</sup> For ye have not received the spirit of bondage again to fear; but ye have received the Spirit of adoption, whereby we cry, **Abba, Father.***

*Abba – Intimacy that says I love you so much, I want to obey your every word... I want to please you in every way.*

*<sup>16</sup> The Spirit itself beareth witness with our spirit, that we are the children of God:*

*<sup>17</sup> And if children, then heirs; heirs of God, and joint-heirs with Christ; if so be that we suffer with him, that we may be also glorified together.*

<sup>9</sup> (For the fruit of the Spirit is in all goodness and righteousness and truth;)

<sup>10</sup> Proving what is acceptable unto the Lord.

<sup>11</sup> And have no fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness, but rather reprove them.

*The work of the Holy Spirit within us. Without us saying a word sometimes. John 16:8*

<sup>12</sup> For it is a shame even to speak of those things which are done of them in secret.

<sup>13</sup> But all things that are reprov'd are made manifest by the light: for whatsoever doth make manifest is light.

<sup>14</sup> Wherefore he saith, Awake thou that sleepest, and arise from the dead, and Christ shall give thee light.

<sup>15</sup> See then that ye walk circumspectly, not as fools, but as wise,

<sup>16</sup> Redeeming the time, because the days are evil.

*There may be coming a time in the near future that it will be more and more difficult to share the gospel.*

*We need to be doing all we can now while we can.*

*That starts with Imitating Our Father, there is no time to be wasted on foolishness.*

***As Children do this...***

<sup>17</sup> Wherefore be ye not unwise, but understanding what the will of the Lord is.

<sup>18</sup> And be not drunk with wine, wherein is excess; but be filled with the Spirit;

<sup>19</sup> Speaking to yourselves in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody in your heart to the Lord;

<sup>20</sup> Giving thanks always for all things unto God and the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ;