

“MORE THAN A THREE-LETTER WORD”

SERMON NOTES

Ephesians 5:1-5

1. **Imitate _____ . Period. (v. 1)**

COMMAND #1 – Be/Become imitators – looks backwards & forwards; a link between thoughts
We are children of God (Jn 1:12; Rom 8:16; Phil 2:15; 1 Jn 3:1, 10) - motivation

Application #1 – God is our _____ & defines our standard (Lev 11:45; 19:2; Mt 5:43-48; Lk 6:36;
1 Cor 11:1; Eph 4:32; 1 Thess 1:6; 1 Pt 1:13-16).

Application #2 – Be cautious about the _____ you keep (1 Cor 15:33; Prov 9:6; 13:20; 22:24, 25)

2. **Imitate God through _____ Love. (v. 2)**

COMMAND #2 – Live/Walk in love

Our world spells love: S-E-X.

God spells love: C-H-R-I-S-T! (Jn 13:34; Rom 14:15; Eph 5:25; 1 Jn 3:16)

Application – How are we to be a fragrant & pleasing offering to God?

FIRST - a life that is a fragrant and pleasing offering to God is a person whose love is categorized by a keen perception of the needs of others and sacrificially acting to meet those needs. (1 Cor 10:24, 33; 13:5; Phil 2:3-4; Jas 2:8; 1 Jn 3:16)

Are you holding back?
Does your *agape* love have limits?

SECOND - a life that is a fragrant and pleasing offering to God is a person whose love is seen in obedience to the will of God over the desires of the flesh. (Mt 26:42)

See also Jn 14:31; 15:10; 1 Jn 2:5; 4:21; 5:2-3

3. **Imitate God in _____ & _____. (vv. 3-4)**

Sexual immorality – broadest term to describe all sexual sins (activity outside the divine bounds established by God in the covenant of heterosexual marriage)

Impurity – all kinds of uncleanness

Greed – lust for more, esp. the forbidden; coveting someone else to satisfy for selfish gratification

Vulgar Speech – dirty talk, indecent language

Foolish Talk – making shameful acceptable thru humor

Coarse Jest – clever wordplays, double entendres

Application – How do we combat these things?

FIRST – understand your calling & God's standard (4:1; 5:2)

SECOND – develop an attitude of thanksgiving (5:4)

4. **Imitate God by _____ to Unbelievers. (v. 5)**

Kingdom of God – undertones of salvation, synonymous here with salvation, speaks of God's spiritual rule over one's heart and life; willingly submitted to his authority.

Speaks of unbelievers who presently refuse his authority & are not inheriting & will not inherit if they continue in this path the kingdom of God/salvation.

Think about those who are unsaved... 2 Cor 5:20; Mt 28:19-20

Do I have an excuse for not sharing the gospel with others?