

### **Be Imitators of God (Ephesians 5:1,2)**

- What is the key thing that separates us from a sinful world? Forgiveness
- Being forgiven by God is a powerful motive for forgiveness according to Paul.
- In every area of the Christian's life, love should manifest as it did in Christ's life
- 'Therefore be imitators of God' says Paul, we are to mimic or imitate God in love

#### **I. We Are Called to be Imitators of God**

- We are not just called to good, but to imitate God because we are His children

v1 "Therefore be imitators of God, as beloved children"

- Children of God, adopted into the household & family of God, belonging to God
- If we don't understand our familial call, we will miss the point about obedience
- Being forgiven is key to Christianity, but Christianity is more than forgiveness
- It is more than rebirth, it means rebirth after the image of Jesus Himself (4:24)
- Not only are we children, we are children beloved by God- God is interested in us

#### **II. Imitate God by Responding to His Love**

- Greatest desire of our life: show our love to Him & to please Him in all we do
- Nothing gives God greater joy than having His children living worthy of His name
- We must be imitators of God: the honor of the family is in our hands (Rom 14:7)
- Conduct of God's child: make others think about his heavenly Father (Matt 5:16)

#### **III. Walk in Love as Christ Loved & Gave Himself up for Us**

- All of our conversation & conduct must be carried on in love for God is love
- Jesus tells us to be perfect as our heavenly Father is perfect (Matt 5:48) why?
- "That you may be like children like your Father who is in heaven" Jesus continues
- He makes His sun to rise on evil & on good, he sends rain on just & unjust
- (v2)& walk in love, as Christ loved us & a fragrant offering & sacrifice to God.
- Every deed done out of love & gratitude to God is pleasing to God (1 Pet 2:21)