IMITATORS OF GOD

EPHESIANS 5:1-2

August 19, 2020
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- An Imitator Tries To Be “The Same As”
- An Imitator Mimics
- An Imitator Is “A Copy Of – A Duplicate”
- An Imitator Assumes “The Appearance Of – Looks Like”
- Children Imitate What They See
(Eph 5:1-2 NIV) Be imitators of God, therefore, as dearly loved children (2) and live a life of love, just as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us as a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God.

*Children Walk, Talk, And Carry Themselves, Like Their Parents*

*You Become Mature And More Like God As You Imitate Him -- Do What You See Him Doing*

*We Are To Imitate God As Children Imitate Their Parents*
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Q. What Is A Life Of Love? And How Can I Live It?
A. Imitation Of God’s Nature Can Only Happen After We Are Born Of His Nature

We Have To Be Born Of The Spirit To Live A Life Of Love
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(1 John 4:8 NIV) God is love.

If God Is Love As We Imitate God -- We Can Live A Life Of Love

We Are To Live A Life Of Love By Imitating God’s Love
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If We Are Going To Imitate God—Then--

- As He Forgives Us, We Should Forgive Others
- As He Bears Our Shortcomings, We Should Bear The Shortcomings Of Others
- As He Responds To Us In Mercy, We Must Respond In Mercy To Others
- As He Never Stops Doing Good Things For Us, We Must Never Stop Doing Good Things For Others

That Is How We Live A Life Of Love
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Love Benefits The Cause Of Christ
If We Would Imitate The Love Of God, It Could Shake Our Nation And World

If You Turn Enough Lives Around, You Can Turn A Neighborhood, A City, And Even A Country Around

We Must Imitate God -- His Love Changes Everything!
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Three Levels Of Love

- God Has Given Us An Example -- His Own Son -- Jesus Christ
- The Model Of A Life Of Love Is Christ
- God Is Calling Us All To Be Authentic Representations Of The Son Of God.

- We Don’t Substitute For Him, But We Do Represent Him, And Emulate Him
- It Is Christ Who Puts The Capacity And The Ability To Love In Us
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This Is The Kind Of Love Of God That We Are To Imitate:

1. Giving Love – Christ Gave Himself Up
2. Fragrant Love – Christ’s Giving Love Was A Fragrant Offering
3. Sacrificial Love -- Christ Was A Sacrifice Unto God
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Loving Like God Loves:

- We Should Walk So Closely With Jesus That He Imprints On Us His Nature: Loving, Serving, Sacrificing, Pleasing To God The Father.
- We Stay Close To Him Through Bible Study, Prayer, Fellowship, And Evangelism So That You Are Always In A Position To Be Transformed Into His Image.

(from The Life Application Commentary)
The Love Of God Is:

A Giving Love
John 3:16 (NIV) (16) "For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.

A Love For People At Their Worst
(Rom 5:8 NIV) But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.

A Life-giving Love – Rich In Mercy – Full Of Grace
(Eph 2:4-5 NIV) But because of his great love for us, God, who is rich in mercy, (5) made us alive with Christ even when we were dead in transgressions--it is by grace you have been saved
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To Imitate God Is:
1. A Giving Love
2. A Love For People When They Aren’t At Their Best

Let Us Be Imitators Of God And Walk The Path Of Love
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- His Love Says There Is A Way To Escape The Clutches Of Sin
- His Love Says You Can Make It In Uncertain Times.
- His Love Will Overcome Hatred
- His Love Will Overcome Neglect
- His Love Will Overcome All Obstacles & Barriers
- His Love Will Overcome All Deception And Falsehood
- His Love Will Overcome Peoples Unbelief
- Let Us Be Imitators Of God -- In Love