



1/19/26

Does it blow your mind that every human ever to be born since the flood is a descendant of one of the sons of Noah? That's crazy... and yet possible. It makes me think of a shampoo commercial I saw YEARS ago. They showed a woman who said, "I told 2 friends," and then she doubles on the screen and then quadruples and then continues to multiply with her face all over the screen while she says, "And they told two friends. And they told two friends. And so on, and so on, and so on." Well, Noah's boys had babies, and they had babies, and they had babies, and so on, and so on, and so on. And here we are in 2026, over 4000 years later, all related to those boys in some way. That's crazy... and true. God can do anything!

*Blessings,
Jonna*

Ephesians 5:1-10

It always blows me away when we're learning the stories from Genesis that God was so meticulous in His plan. Everything He does has purpose... and I have only scratched the surface in grasping the meaning everything I've read. How Noah's story reflects the creation story... even how God's mercy is displayed in both, how God uses a covering for Adam and Eve's nakedness and a covering for Noah's nakedness to show His mercy. It's just beautiful.

And now I look at Ephesians 5 as it calls me to imitate God and reject the things that are in opposition to His holiness. I can see from Ham's disrespect of his dad that nothing good ever comes from our sin... and so God's call for me to lay down sin and cling to Him is not Him shaming down on me... but a call to follow Him and experience His love to the fullest. The motivation for anything God calls me to do is the same no matter what I do... God loves me.

Vs. 1-2 ~ In these 2 verses, God gives me 2 commands.

- 1. Imitate God.*
- 2. Walk in love.*

Truly, to walk in love IS to imitate God. But these commands start with the word, "therefore." What's it there for? If I look at the very last verse of chapter 4, I see that Jesus was kind, tenderhearted, and forgiving toward me. Therefore... be that for others. Therefore, imitate God and walk in love.

What is my motivation for imitating God? I'm His beloved child. He loves me. He has adopted me. I'm not far from Him. He pulls me close to His heart. How do I really know that He loves me? Jesus. Jesus Christ loved me as the Father loved me... and Jesus gave Himself up for me. His offering and sacrifice for my sins was also a fragrant offering and sacrifice to the Father. Why? Because it pleased the Father that His Son gave Himself for me.

The thing about God is that honoring and loving Him will always spill over into caring for and loving others. God is not selfish. Everything about being with Him starts with His love poured into me, so that my love for Him can spill out to others. There is so much joy in this! How often do I get caught into the lie that I will be more satisfied if I am about pleasing my own desires, when the true satisfaction is found in walking in the love of God? O Lord, please help me to walk in love as I imitate YOU.

Vs. 3-6 ~ What does NOT imitate the love of God? Sexual immorality, impurity, covetousness, filthiness, foolish talk, and crude joking. Why? They're all about SELF. They're more interested in "fighting for my freedoms" than caring for my God and His people. I look at this list and I see that the biggest issue for me personally is covetousness.

Vs. 5 as well as Colossians 3:5 say that covetousness is idolatry. Covetousness says, "I'm dissatisfied with what I have. I want what that person has." For me, that's a desire for honor and respect. It's wrong because it keeps me from loving God wholeheartedly. When I'm not satisfied, I'm accusing God of failing me and not giving me what I deserve... when I really don't deserve anything. Everything I have is a gift from God. Covetousness is also wrong because it keeps me from loving others. Instead of loving the person who gets more honor than me, I'm resenting what that person has. I can't love someone and want what they have at the same time. I need to continue to release that to the Lord and confess it any time I recognize that my thoughts are drifting into dissatisfaction. In Amy Carmichael's book, IF, she says, "IF I cannot in honest happiness take the second place (or the twentieth); if I cannot take the first without making a fuss about my unworthiness, then I know nothing of Calvary Love." Truly, Jesus set down all His worthiness to give me worth. Let me never say He owes me another thing. He never even owed me my salvation.

Indulging in anything that goes against God's love is out of place and improper for God's beloved children. Instead, I'm called to be thankful. Why? Because Jesus died to set me free from those things. I am His beloved child because Jesus paid my ransom. That's a ton of reason to be thankful. So instead of indulging in sin, Lord, please help me to indulge in gratitude.

The fact is, everyone who practices and embraces those things Jesus had to die for will never

inherit the kingdom of Christ and God. Jesus came to deliver me from sin, not to free me to indulge in it. There is no freedom in sin. It destroys. It reaches far beyond the person who commits sin. Sin's effects can go on for generations, like Canaan being destroyed 1200 years after the prophecy... This is why God's wrath will someday come down in judgment on the "sons of disobedience." The sons of disobedience are talked about in Ephesians 2:1-3, "And you were dead in the trespasses and sins in which you once walked, following the course of this world, following the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that is now at work in the sons of disobedience— among whom we all once lived in the passions of our flesh, carrying out the desires of the body and the mind, and were by nature children of wrath, like the rest of mankind." The sons of disobedience are simply unbelievers. They have no interest in following God. They follow their god, the devil. I need to make sure I am imitating God and not them.

Vs. 7-10 ~ The wonderful news is, God is able to break the cycle of sin for all who receive His grace and mercy. At one time, I was one of the sons of disobedience. I was darkness. But when I confessed Jesus as my Lord, I became a child of light. As a child of light, I need to make sure that I'm not partaking in the things that would make me an imitator of the sons of disobedience. Since I AM a child of light, WALK as a child of light... experiencing and partaking in all that is good and right and true. This is what pleases the Lord.

So... as a son of disobedience, I would have faced wrath. The things that I would partake in if I were partnered with the sons of disobedience lead to short lived satisfaction in the moment and lots of pain and wrath in the long run. It is never worth it to indulge. The things that I partake in as a child of God are good, right, true, life giving, and full of love... with no downside.

God is not trying to withhold good from me by calling me to imitate Him, walk in love, and walk in light. He's blessing me so that I can experience a deeper understanding of His love, He's giving me the blessing of His pleasure shining down on me, He's pouring out His sacrificial love on me, and He's making me one with Him. O Lord, let me never be deceived! You are the source of love, joy, peace, hope, and satisfaction. Walking in Your love and light, imitating You, is the absolute best and only place to be. Thank You for Your love, for making me Your beloved child. Amen.