

Dear Church (Part 12)
"Imitate God" [Eph. 5:1-2]
July 16, 2017

HomeGroup and Personal Study Questions

- Try a word-association exercise: Please write down the first thing that comes to your mind. Do not over think the word, but simply write down what comes to mind (word, thought, experience, etc.) The word association—"imitate God." Discuss what came to mind. What are you drawn to imitate? (Actions, specific character traits, an idea, etc.).
- How does the idea of imitating God affect you? Is it something you embrace or reject? Do you think it is possible? Does it cause you stress or bring you joy? Please explain your answers.
- The instruction "imitate God," continues with expressive clarification, "***in everything you do.***" What do you think this means? Can you list particular areas of activities in your life where you are incapable of imitating God? Please name them. Can you describe how you imitate God in some areas or how you are specifically imitating God in named activities in your daily life.
- The Apostle instructs his reader, "...***you are his dear children.***" This is a statement we often speak out in agreement within Christian circles, but what does this mean to you? Do you see yourself as a "child of God?" Explain your position (why or why not). What do you think a child of God looks like? Do God's children all look alike? Discuss your positions.
- Paul clarifies his statement of imitating God by describing the actions of "God imitators." He further instructs: "***Live a life filled with love, following the example of Christ.***" Can you describe what "living a life of love" looks like in your world? Are you able to give detailed examples? Consider yourself as a mentor to another person who is trying to follow the teachings of Jesus; how would you tell them, what would you tell them to do, that is living a life of love? Can you describe the example of Christ?
- We recognize the language Paul uses in describing Jesus as a "sacrifice for us." We generally understand this language referencing the crucifixion of Jesus, and we make associations to the temple sacrifices of the (Old Testament) ancient Hebrew practices. Paul informs us this is also our example. Does he mean we are to be crucified? How do we incorporate this "sacrifice of ourselves" for others as we imitate God through the life of Jesus?
- Have you considered sharing your experiences and/or testimony with others? Has this journey through Ephesians impacted your understanding of yourself as a follower of Jesus? Would you be willing to share this experience with one of the pastors in an email?