

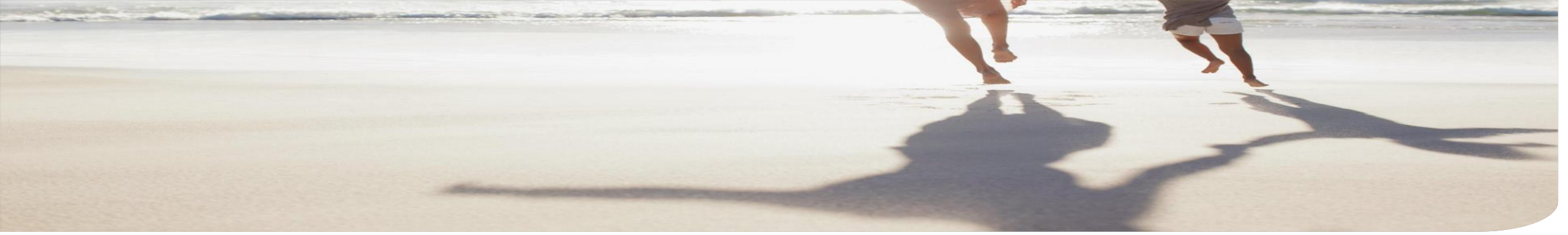
Ephesians 5:1-14

3 MEANINGS OF IMITATING JESUS



BACKGROUND/CONTEXT

1. Author: Apostle Paul (written approx. 60-62 AD)
2. Audience: Written to believers in the church in Ephesus
3. Setting: Paul writing while under house arrest in Rome; writes letter to encourage living genuine Christian life
4. Composition: Ephesians has combination of theology and application



ABOUNDING AND SHARING GOD'S LOVE (vv. 1-2)

Paul here; described Discipleship, following Jesus, victorious Christian life

“imitators” – “one who mimics or copies” Goal is focusing on Jesus

“walk” – “habitual lifestyle, situation in life and living

First: possess and live out God's supernatural “agape” love

Jesus is the example of how this is displayed

I JOHN 4:8, “HE WHO DOES NOT LOVE, DOES NOT KNOW GOD, FOR GOD IS LOVE.”

I COR. 13:4, “LOVE SUFFERS LONG AND IS KIND; LOVE DOES NOT ENVY LOVE DOES NOT PARADE ITSELF, IS NOT PUFFED UP;...”



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PUTTING OFF THE OLD, SELFISH NATURE (VV. 3-7)

Salvation in Jesus brings a new nature; but old is still there

Paul; starve the old nature and “feed” the new

(vv. 3, 5, 6) Seek to be spiritually clean and righteous

(v. 4) Remember; out of the abundance of the heart, the mouth speaks

Use words for clean speech, good humor, and praise/thanksgiving



James 3:6, “And the tongue is a fire, a world of iniquity. The tongue is so set among our members that it defiles the whole body and sets on fire the course of nature; and it is set on fire by hell.”

Eph. 4:22, “...that you put off, concerning your former conduct; the old man which grows corrupt according to deceitful lusts,...”

ACTIVELY LIVING OUT RELATIONSHIP WITH JESUS (VV. 8-14)

Believers are now the light; they no longer
darkness

Jesus is the Light of the world; believers are
then little lights that go out into the darkness to
show the way to the Light

Light exposes darkness and reveals what is
really there (v. 13)

(v.14) early church hymn; the sun dispels
darkness; Jesus dispels evil



MATT. 5:16, “LET YOUR LIGHT
SO SHINE BEFORE MEN, THAT
THEY MAY SEE YOUR GOOD
WORKS AND GLORIFY YOUR
FATHER IN HEAVEN.”

JOHN 1:5, “THE LIGHT SHINES
IN THE DARKNESS, AND THE
DARKNESS HAS NOT
OVERCOME IT.”

