

MAIN POINT

God calls His people to live as those who have been redeemed.

INTRODUCTION

Who is one of your biggest influences or someone you seek to imitate? What about this person is worthy of imitation?

In Ephesians 5, Paul encouraged His readers to be imitators of God. This imitation is not based on effort to earn approval or salvation, but in response to the new identity of those who God has brought into His family. The world continually calls us to imitate and be influenced by things that are not honoring to God. This passage is a reminder that God's people are called to live in a new way that stands out in the world.

DISCUSSION

> READ EPHESIANS 5:1-20.

What can we learn from Jesus about loving as God loves (v. 2)?

How does God's standard for our bodies, minds, and speech in verses 3-4 compare or contrast with society's standard?

How are the sins in these verses examples of idolatry (v. 5)?

What should characterize the lives of those living as "children of light" (v. 8)?

What characteristics are the result of "the fruit of the light" (v. 9)? How do these compare with the fruit of the darkness in Ephesians 4:18-19?

What role does the Holy Spirit play in helping us live in the light? What role do other Christians play?

According to verse 15, what's the first step to living a life of wisdom?

What commands did Paul give the Ephesians in verses 17-21? Why are each of these actions examples of wise living? How do they help us ensure we are living as imitators of God (5:1)?

How can we know if we're being "foolish"?

APPLICATION

In what specific areas are you seeking to imitate God? In what areas of life is it most difficult to imitate God? Why is this?