



Sunday, February 18, 2018
Pastor Don Denyes

Introduction to Ephesians 5:1-2

When you think long and hard about who God is in relation to us, His creatures, it is staggering that He would command us to be like Him in any way. There is so much about God that is beyond our comprehension. There is so much about Him that is beyond our ability to imitate. He is transcendent—not subject to the limits of the material world. In addition to that, He is perfect in His character and in His actions towards us.

Yet He is near to us, and stoops down to come near to us and reveal Himself in a way that we can imitate. We can speak like He speaks. We can act like He acts. We can love like He loves. Nowhere has this love been more on display than when Jesus died on the cross. There, He not only paid the price for our sins—something we could not do for ourselves—but He also left us with an example to follow. Our love could not atone for the sins of humanity, but our love can give of ourselves sacrificially for the good of others. So, if we are to follow Him, we cannot just claim the benefits of Jesus' death (having the punishment for our sins removed), without taking up that same cross and living sacrificially to imitate Him.

Context

This section serves as something of a logical transition in the argument Paul has been making thus far. That is why it begins with “therefore,” because it is concluding the argument that he has been making. Now, he transitions to unpack more specifically what it means to imitate God in loving sacrificially. Pastor Don alluded to it when he mentioned that Paul mirrors his language from this passage in 5:25 when talking about husbands in relationship to their wives. The section that follows will get into more specifics of what that means.

Read and Reflect *(Use this section to write down any thoughts you had on the sermon. Make sure to note any questions you had about something in the passage or in the sermon.)*

“Imitate God”

Read Ephesians 5:1-2

Why are children like their parents?

A product of nature and nurture.

- Imitate God... astonishing command

- We are loved... magnificent truth

- Love like Jesus... perfect example

God is love...

We are dearly loved...

So, mimic God and love like Jesus!

Discuss

- 1) In what ways are you like your parents?

- 2) Pastor Don described God's attributes in two ways: communicable (meaning mere humans can be like Him) and incommunicable (meaning He does not share those attributes with His creatures). What are some of His communicable attributes? In what ways does God want us to be like Him?

- 3) How conscious are you on a day-to-day basis of God's love for you? Why is that?

- 4) What are some obstacles in your life that prohibit you from loving like Jesus?

- 5) Pastor Don issued a challenge to choose to love someone sacrificially this week. How is that going? Have you been able to follow through on that?