

# Imitate God and Be Loving (Part 2)

Ephesians 5:1-2

*Ephesians: The Riches of His Grace*



*5 Therefore be imitators of God, as beloved children. <sup>2</sup> And walk in love, as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us, a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God.*

Ephesians 5:1-2

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Review:

Imitate God.

*Therefore be imitators of God... v. 1*

Because you've just been told to forgive others like God forgave you.

*...forgiving one another, as God in Christ forgave you.*

Ephesians 4:32

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Review:

Because He is the standard of all that is worthy to be imitated.

*...of God... v. 1*

Because you are greatly loved by Him and dear to His heart.

*...as beloved... v. 1*

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Review:

Because you are His child.

*...children. v. 1*

Because your Father wants you to treat your brothers and sisters as He does.

*...children => you've got brothers and sisters and a Father in Heaven.*

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This week:

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Imitate His love.

<sup>2</sup> *And walk in love...*

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His love was displayed in Christ.

*...as Christ loved us... v. 2*

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Love means giving ourselves, as He did, for the sake of others.

*...and gave Himself up for us... v. 2*

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Love means giving ourselves, as He did, for the sake of others.

<sup>3</sup> *He was despised and forsaken of men,  
A man of sorrows and acquainted with grief;  
And like one from whom men hide their face  
He was despised, and we did not esteem Him.*

<sup>4</sup> *Surely our griefs He Himself bore,  
And our sorrows He carried;  
Yet we ourselves esteemed Him stricken,  
Smitten of God, and afflicted.*                      Isaiah 53:3-4

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Love people by giving yourself to them in their suffering.

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Suffering people need people around them.

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# Suffering people need people around them.

*<sup>32</sup> And they went to a place called Gethsemane. And he said to his disciples, "Sit here while I pray." <sup>33</sup> And he took with him Peter and James and John, and began to be greatly distressed and troubled. <sup>34</sup> And he said to them, "My soul is very sorrowful, even to death. Remain here and watch." <sup>35</sup> And going a little farther, he fell on the ground and prayed that, if it were possible, the hour might pass from him. Mark 14:32-35*

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God has comforted us in our suffering so we can  
comfort others in theirs.

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God has comforted us in our suffering so we can comfort others in theirs.

*<sup>3</sup> Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of mercies and God of all comfort, <sup>4</sup> who comforts us in all our affliction, so that we may be able to comfort those who are in any affliction, with the comfort with which we ourselves are comforted by God. <sup>5</sup> For as we share abundantly in Christ's sufferings, so through Christ we share abundantly in comfort too. <sup>6</sup> If we are afflicted, it is for your comfort and salvation; and if we are comforted, it is for your comfort, which you experience when you patiently endure the same sufferings that we suffer. <sup>7</sup> Our hope for you is unshaken, for we know that as you share in our sufferings, you will also share in our comfort. 2 Corinthians 1:3-7*

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God has comforted us in our suffering so we can comfort others in theirs.

<sup>9</sup> Let love be genuine. Abhor what is evil; hold fast to what is good.

<sup>10</sup> Love one another with brotherly affection. Outdo one another in showing honor. <sup>11</sup> Do not be slothful in zeal, be fervent in spirit, serve the Lord. <sup>12</sup> Rejoice in hope, be patient in tribulation, be constant in prayer.

<sup>13</sup> Contribute to the needs of the saints and seek to show hospitality.

<sup>14</sup> Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse them. <sup>15</sup> Rejoice with those who rejoice, weep with those who weep.

Romans 12:9-15

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Compassion moves believers to action especially when we have an eternal perspective.

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Compassion moves believers to action especially when we have an eternal perspective.

*<sup>32</sup> But recall the former days when, after you were enlightened, you endured a hard struggle with sufferings, <sup>33</sup> sometimes being publicly exposed to reproach and affliction, and sometimes being partners with those so treated. <sup>34</sup> For you had compassion on those in prison, and you joyfully accepted the plundering of your property, since you knew that you yourselves had a better possession and an abiding one.*

Hebrews 10:32-34

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Love means offering ourselves as a living sacrifice to God to be used for His purposes.

*...gave himself up for us, a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God. v. 2*

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*...gave himself up for us, a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God. v. 2*

*Therefore I urge you, brethren, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies a living and holy sacrifice, acceptable to God, which is your spiritual service of worship.*

Romans 12:1

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