

# Imitate God and Be Loving

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

*Ephesians: The Riches of His Grace*

We tend to come to verses like this and we look for the take-away, and we're like,

“Okay, imitate God, be loving, imitate God, be loving, imitate God, be loving...okay, I got it”.

*Ephesians: The Riches of His Grace*

# Imitate God.

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

*Ephesians: The Riches of His Grace*

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

Think about it:

God created a situation in which His people would be very tempted to sin against Him!

*Ephesians: The Riches of His Grace*

We respect God because of His justice. But we love Him because of His mercy. His forgiving grace endears our hearts to Him. Our relationship with Him is based on His never-ending love and forgiveness.

*Ephesians: The Riches of His Grace*

God didn't create a world in which we would be perfect – He created a world that was perfect for displaying His forgiving grace!

*Ephesians: The Riches of His Grace*

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

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

*Ephesians: The Riches of His Grace*



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

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

*Your way, O God, is holy. What god is great like our God?*

Psalm 77:13

*Ephesians: The Riches of His Grace*

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

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

*Your way, O God, is holy. What god is great like our God?*

Psalm 77:13

*To whom then will you compare me, that I should be like him?  
says the Holy One.*

Isaiah 40:25

*Ephesians: The Riches of His Grace*

Imitate God, love people...I got it.

*Ephesians: The Riches of His Grace*

Imitate God, love people...I got it.

No, how much of it you got is directly proportional to how intimately you know God.

*Ephesians: The Riches of His Grace*

Imitate God, love people...I got it.

No, how much of it you got is directly proportional to how intimately you know God.

Not intimate?

Can't imitate!

*Ephesians: The Riches of His Grace*

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

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

*Ephesians: The Riches of His Grace*

Because you are His child.

*...children. v. 1*

*Ephesians: The Riches of His Grace*

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.

*Ephesians: The Riches of His Grace*



Specifically, imitate His love.

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

*Ephesians: The Riches of His Grace*

It was displayed in Christ.

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

*Ephesians: The Riches of His Grace*

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

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

*Ephesians: The Riches of His Grace*

It is self-sacrificing like Jesus' love for us.

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

*Ephesians: The Riches of His Grace*

It 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

*Ephesians: The Riches of His Grace*

The answers:

God, God, He, Him, His, He, His, Christ, He, Jesus', God

*Ephesians: The Riches of His Grace*