

Ephesians 4:17-5:2

Imitate God

Leonard Lee

Sunday, August 8, 2021
Ephesians 4:17-32; 5:1-2

¹⁷ So this I say, and affirm together with the Lord, that you walk no longer just as the Gentiles also walk, in the futility of their mind,

¹⁸ being darkened in their understanding, excluded from the life of God because of the ignorance that is in them, because of the hardness of their heart;

¹⁹ and they, having become callous, have given themselves over to sensuality for the practice of every kind of impurity with greediness. Ephesians 4:17-19

- Their thinking has no hope
- Understanding has no light
- Their living lacks the presence of God
- Their "bones" have no conscience
- Their life is without restraint

²⁰ But you did not learn Christ in this way, ²¹ if indeed you have heard Him and have been taught in Him, just as truth is in Jesus, ²² that, in reference to your former manner of life, you lay aside the old self, which is being corrupted in accordance with the lusts of deceit,

²³ and that you be renewed in the spirit of your mind, ²⁴ and put on the new self, which in *the likeness of God* has been created in righteousness and holiness of the truth. Ephesians 4:20-24

This is not the way of Jesus – so

Lay aside what is "Old"

Be renewed in your thinking

Put on the new self, the one that is like Jesus (Right with God and different)

²⁵ Therefore, laying aside falsehood, speak truth each one *of you* with his neighbor, for we are members of one another. ²⁶ Be angry, and *yet* do not sin; do not let the sun go down on your anger, ²⁷ and do not give the devil an opportunity. ²⁸ He who steals must steal no longer; but rather he must labor, performing with his own hands what is good, so that he will have *something* to share with one who has need. Ephesians 4:25-28

²⁹ Let no unwholesome word proceed from your mouth, but only such *a word* as is good for edification according to the need *of the moment*, so that it will give grace to those who hear. ³⁰ Do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, by whom you were sealed for the day of redemption. ³¹ Let all bitterness and wrath and anger and clamor and slander be put away from you, along with all malice. ³² Be kind to one another, tender-hearted, forgiving each other, just as God in Christ also has forgiven you. Ephesians 4:29-32

- Impacts our love for others turning motives into love
- Impacts our attitudes (anger) turning anger into forgiveness
- Impacts our ethics turning greed into generosity
- Impacts our language turning words into blessings
- Impacts our mission turning self-edification into building others
- Impacts our Operating system - transforming and helping us live into the decisions following Jesus already makes for us.

¹ Therefore be imitators of God, as beloved children; ² and walk in love, just as Christ also loved you and gave Himself up for us, an offering and a sacrifice to God as a fragrant aroma. Ephesians 5:1-2

In doing this...

You become imitators of God – not imitators of culture

Walking in the same sacrificial love Jesus did

And...

You will smell great to God

State of the Bay Report as of July 31, 2021

Year-to-date Actual Vs Budgeted General fund giving:

Actual: \$178,247.70 Budgeted: \$209,526.00

Total BRIX (Building restricted funds account): \$144,306.81