

## Imitating God and Loving Like Jesus

### Eph. 5:1,2

#### *The ultimate imitation—becoming like God, 5:1*

- *Therefore* refers back to the many privileges listed in ch. 1-3 and offers an intro to our 3<sup>rd</sup> “walk-section,” recall 4:1,17.
- *Imitate* = only 6x in Bible and of people elsewhere, I Cor. 4:16, 11:1, Phil. 3:9, Heb. 6:12. Though uniquely referring to God here, it is similar to Matt. 5:48, Lk. 6:36, I Pt.1:15.
- *As beloved children* explains why imitation is expected. See also 5:8 and contrast these with 2:3, and Jn. 8:44.
- In what areas can we / should we imitate God?

#### *The greatest example of love—sacrificing like Jesus, 5:2*

- In 4:32 we are to *forgive just as God* . . . In 5:2 are to *walk in love just as Jesus*, cf. I Jn. 2:6.
- Sacrificial love = Jesus gave Himself up (5:25, Jn. 10:11ff.)  
Three OT sacrificial terms are used here to picture this love.
- What will our sacrificial love most likely look like? Check out I Jn. 3:16-18, Rom. 12:1ff., Phil. 2:3-8..



Ephesians 5:1-2 (HCSB)

“Therefore, be imitators of God, as dearly loved children.  
And walk in love, as the Messiah also loved us and gave  
Himself for us, a sacrificial and fragrant offering to God.”