

**Growing Together by Imitating God the Father** (Ephesians 5:1-14)

*"For you were once darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Live as children of light." (vs.8)*

In Ephesians 4:25 - 32 Paul addresses our tendencies to sin against one another within the Church. In Ch. 5:1 - 14 he identifies temptations that we face largely outside of the Church, especially in the areas of lust and greed. The Church of Ephesus was full of people who had come to Christ in a society where sexual sin was normalized by the practices of the temple of Artemis (Diana). Those who didn't participate in its rituals would need grace and courage to stand out as light in the darkness.

**Sermon Outline:**

1. The Source of a Holy Life: Being Imitators of the Father: (5:1 - 2)
2. The Expression of a Holy Life: Mimicking the Father in Living and Language (5:3 - 7)
3. The Fruit of a Holy Life: Walking in the Dark as Children of the Light (5:8 - 14)

**Questions for Reflection:**

1. It has been said that in gospel teaching the imperatives (what we do) always rest on the indicatives (who we are). How does Paul evidence that conviction in this passage? Why is it essential to understand it in our battle against sin and in our pursuit of holiness?
2. Compare Eph. 5:5 - 7 with other parallel passages that warn of sin's danger, such as I Cor. 6:9 - 10; Gal. 5:19 - 21; I John 3:7 - 10. How should these verses inform a casual approach to sinning?
3. How do Christians in our culture shine like light? How can we shine brighter?



## Personal Study Notes

Ephesians 5:1-14

- <sup>1</sup> Be imitators of God, therefore, as dearly loved children
- <sup>2</sup> and live a life of love, just as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us  
as a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God.

*Ephesians 5:1-2*

Exhortation to be Imitators of God and follow Christ in Sacrificial Love (5:1-2)

Instruction in Holy Living (5:3-7)

Living as Children of Light (5:8-14)

### Questions or Insights for Discussion:

- 1)
- 2)

