



Ephesians 5:1-2

Imitator Of Jesus Christ?

“Be imitators of God, therefore, as dearly loved children 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

The entire 5th chapter of Paul's letter to the Ephesians centers upon the Ephesians living holy and sanctified lives while existing in and around a very wicked and unbelieving world. And they were to do that so others might see Jesus present throughout the conduct of their daily lives.

In the end of Ephesians chapter 4, Paul is talking about the change that takes place, first in our hearts and then second, in our daily lives. **When Jesus forgives us and cleanses us with His own blood, the old man of sin, is "put off" and we "put on the new man" which is Jesus Christ.**

When grace and mercy comes into our heart, Jesus is "created in us." We are as Paul once described; **"It is no longer I that live, but Jesus Christ that lives in me."** That is the only way it becomes possible for any of us to live the expected Christian life. We cannot live as Jesus unless Jesus lives within us.

Once we attach ourselves to Jesus and refer to ourselves as **"Christians"** then we are to strive to live so that others may truthfully notice Jesus Christ alive and being active through us. This is what Paul meant when he said, ***“Be imitators of God, therefore, as dearly loved children.”***

When Jesus comes into our heart, **He wants** to shine through us. He wants others to see Himself in us. This calls for us to live a humble life, a submissive life and a self sacrificing life. Jesus will never force Himself so He could shine through us. **He always wants** our sincere invitation to come into our hearts and have complete control of our lives.

We know the very moment Jesus came into hearts and we also know when His presence is with us wherever we may go. And I believe those people living in the darkness of sin can sense when Jesus is alive in us! **There is a difference in those "who follow Jesus" and "those who do not follow Jesus."**

And we are to do more than love with our words! Talk is cheap! Words can be meaningless. I want to repeat that once again, **"Words can be meaningless!"** As Christians, we are to **follow the example of Jesus** by actually **"showing others"** that we love them with acts of kindness, gentleness and forgiveness.

He gave His Gift of Love to us. He could have called ten thousand angels and they would have come to His aid and delivered Him from His suffering on the cross. However, He stayed there preaching His final sermon. His presence before them on the cross was a message they would never forget, burned into their minds forever and forever.

You and I are to follow His divine example. We are called upon to love others. But, not just loving in word only. **Tell others that you love them,** but do not stop there. **Show others that you love them too.** When your neighbor has just come home from the hospital from a serious surgery and won't be able to work for several weeks, take a lawn mower over and mow the yard or ask if there is anything around the house you could do for him. If it is a lady that is out of pocket because of sickness, offer her your earnest assistance. **Be a blessing** to those who are facing battles and going through trials.

You can even follow Jesus by showing your enemies that you love them. Show that you truly love them by forgiving them. What the world today needs is for the children of God, to throw down their stones of hatred and begin to follow Jesus by "**practicing His example of love, forgiveness and service.**"

Why not join with me in prayer today, that the Holy Spirit would always help us and empower us to love as Jesus loves and to forgive as Jesus forgives? Be kind and tender hearted, following Jesus' example. There is coming a day when heavenly rewards will be handed out for being Christ-like. I want so much to hear Jesus say to me...and to you "**Well done, thy good and faithful servant, enter thou into the joys of the Lord.**"