



WHO IS LIKE GOD?

I once heard a kid say that their dad was like God. Wow! If that kid knows God, that was a huge compliment. So, who do you know is like God in some way? What are the ways?

LET'S LEARN TOGETHER

The Scriptures are God's words that are written under God's supervision (The Holy Spirit) and preserved so that we might know God and live with Him forever. For this week, we will be reading and learning from Ephesians chapter five. In the first three chapters, we see that God has blessed us, has united us into one family, and now calls us to live "worthy" of His calling.

Read Ephesians 5:1-20 and ask God to help you learn from His words.

The context of these commands is found in the previous chapter. What is said in each of the following verses:

- 4:1 - Walk in a manner worthy of the calling
- 4:17 - no longer just as the Gentiles also walk
- 4:32 - forgive each other, just as God in Christ also has forgiven you

Chapter five has a series of commands that are based on our calling and our new identity. Read through 5:1-20 and list below the descriptions of our identity.

- we are beloved children -1
- we are those loved by Christ – 2
- we are saints – 3
- we are those who have a "place" – 4
- we are those who are "in the light of the Lord; children of the light" – 8
- we are those desiring to "please the Lord" – 10
- we are those living "in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ" – 20

Our lives "in Christ" should lead us to trust and obey God in our behavior. Read back through and list the commands for how we are to live as followers of Jesus.

His commands for how to live as His people (see above)

- Be imitators of God (1)
- Walk in love – 2
- avoid sexual immorality, impurity, covetousness – filthiness, crude joking, 3-4
- Be thankful to God – 4, 20
- Do not partner with those living in darkness – 7
- take no part in the unfruitful works of darkness
- Expose dark deeds (by living in the light) – 11-14
- Look carefully how you walk to be wise– 15
- Make the best use of your time -16

- Do not be foolish / understand the will of the Lord – 17
- Do not get drunk with wine - 18
- Be filled with the Spirit -18

This is quite a list. Which of these commands encourage you to ask God to help you obey them?
sharing

The first command is overarching: “Be imitators of God.” How is this even possible or probable? What has God provided to help us begin to live like Jesus?
sharing

DISCUSS TOGETHER

The idea of imitating God sounds beyond daunting to impossible. And yet, this is the first command of this chapter. What do you think God has in mind by including this command?
sharing

How does knowing our calling and identity help us live out these commands?
sharing

One commentator listed four incentives to holiness in our lives. Which of these incentives challenge and motivate you to live like Jesus?

- 1) A certainty of judgment
- 2) The fruit of light
- 3) The nature of wisdom
- 4) The fullness of the Holy Spirit
- 5) sharing

APPLY IT THIS WEEK:

There is so much to consider from these words from God. As His beloved children, there is much to ponder and apply. For me, I am still learning to live thankfully and walk in love. What has the Spirit of God asked you to pursue?

PLEASE PRAY

- Please pray for our Elders (Jason, Scott, Pavel, Don, Dale, and Pastor Doug) as they pray and trust the Spirit to give oversight to our church family
- Please pray for our teams who are encouraging and shepherding our elementary, middle, and high school students
- Please pray for our church family as we pursue intentional, relational discipleship with the people in our worlds. Pray especially for how we love and serve people in our worlds.