



MESSAGE THEME

“Imitate God, live to love!”

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SERIES THEME – *Infinitely More Than . . .*

Ephesians 3:20 (NLT) *Now all glory to God, who is able, through his mighty power at work within us, to accomplish infinitely more than we might ask or think.*

REVIEW: *Our lives are to model Jesus Christ and His Kingdom values.*

- **In Ephesians 4:17 Paul told us** that this means we do not live like the world.
 1. *Put off the practices of the old self,*
 2. *Be renewed in the spirit of our minds,*
 3. *Put on practices of the new self.*

MESSAGE THEME: *Imitate God, live to love!*

INTRODUCTION

THE COMMAND

Therefore

- “Therefore” connects with what precedes. It summarizes the previous.

Imitate God vs. 1

Ephesians 5:1 (NASB 2020) *Therefore be imitators of God, as beloved children;*

- As children loved by God, we are to be imitators of God.
- mimetes = to mimic, to copy specific characteristics of others.
- We are to become God-like, or godly.

1 Peter 1:14–16 (NASB 2020) *As obedient children, do not be conformed to the former lusts which were yours in your ignorance, 15 but like the Holy One who called you, be holy yourselves also in all your behavior; 16 because it is written: “YOU SHALL BE HOLY, FOR I AM HOLY.”*

3-Part Human Slides – *Spirit, Soul, Body*



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Ephesians 4:24 (NASB 2020) *and to put on the new self, which in the likeness of God has been created in righteousness and holiness of the truth.*

Walk in Love vs. 2

Ephesians 5:2 (NASB 2020) *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.*

Live to Love

- A fundamental way to imitate God is to walk in or live a life of love.
- The Gk. Wd. translated walk (peripateite) literally means to walk around, walk about, lifestyle, and conduct.
- The grammatical structure tells us it is a command that is to be lived out continuously.
 - It is not an option.
- Our manner of life is to be surrounded by love and motivated by love.

Give Yourself Away

- This love is not a static concept, but a dynamic expression of God's truth lived out through us toward others.
- Remember that the God-love characteristic is not a victim of emotion but a servant of one's will to live and act for the benefit and well being of the other.
- Jesus demonstrated this manner of love when He exercised His will and life so as to give Himself up in death for you and for me.
- Jesus lived an apart-from-sin kind of life, yet He died on our behalf, paid our punishment for sin, so that we could be released from the responsibility of our sin and be forgiven.

NOTE: That Jesus presented this act of love unto God the Father as an offering and sacrifice to God that was highly pleasing to Him.

- When we live in this manner toward one another, we are to understand it as an offering unto God, that which greatly pleases Him – the opposite of grieving Him.

STEPPING OUT IN FAITH — LIVE LIKE GOD!!

Putting Truth into Action = Live Like God

- Ephesians chapter 4 is loaded with powerful, life-revolutionizing truth.
- We must understand that the knowledge of truth in and of itself is powerless.
- All through Scripture, acting upon truth, or putting truth in action, is the only way God defines a person knowing something and translating truth into life.

Matthew 7:24–27 (NASB 2020) *“Therefore, everyone who hears these words of Mine, and acts on them, will be like a wise man who built his house on the rock. 25 And the rain fell and the floods came, and the winds blew and slammed against that house; and yet it did not fall, for it had been founded on the rock. 26 And everyone who hears these*



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words of Mine, and does not act on them, will be like a foolish man who built his house on the sand. 27 And the rain fell and the floods came, and the winds blew and slammed against that house; and it fell—and its collapse was great.”

- Common components are 1) Jesus' words, 2) Jesus' words heard.
- The distinction is acting upon the words or not acting upon them.

John 8:31–32 (NASB 2020) *So Jesus was saying to those Jews who had believed Him, “If you continue in My word, then you are truly My disciples; 32 and you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free.”*

- The Gk. Wd. translated “know” means to experience truth versus merely gathering information.
- One can gather all the truth information you can, but if you do not employ it, implement it, put it into action, you will not experience freedom, or become free!!!!

James 1:21–22 (NASB 2020) *Therefore, ridding yourselves of all filthiness and all that remains of wickedness, in humility receive the word implanted, which is able to save your souls. 22 But prove yourselves doers of the word, and not just hearers who deceive themselves.*

- If we do not do the truth, we deceive ourselves, thinking that we are spiritually mature, and in alignment with God's heart and will.
- Information does not equate with knowing truth or obedience!!!

James 1:25 (NASB 2020) *But one who has looked intently at the perfect law, the law of freedom, and has continued in it, not having become a forgetful hearer but an active doer, this person will be blessed in what he does.*

- To live the blessed life includes;
 1. Looking purposefully into the truth.
 2. Living in the truth.
- It will not be the person who merely attends a worship service, or merely attends a Bible study, or who merely attends a summer training course.
- The person who will walk in the deep blessing of God will be the person who puts God's truth into action in his or her life!!!!

Step Out in Faith!!!

- Many times, when we hear messages on the subject of faith, we are told of the great faith-feats accomplished by people.
- Immediately we discount ourselves of being men and women of faith, because I could never take such great leaps of faith.



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- If you know Jesus Christ as your personal Lord and Savior, you are a man or woman of faith!!!!!!
- Everyday, in everything you do you can live out a life of faith and continuously grow into greater and greater faith.
- Recount the last many truths of Eph. 4 that we have looked at, and you might say you can't live in those truths.

Vs. 25 – “Live in Truth”

- You think that you can't afford to live in truth and integrity in the world in which you live and survive or even thrive.
- If you live impeccably in truth, you won't thrive or maybe not survive.

Vs. 26-27 – “Don't Give into Anger or Demonic Jurisdiction”

- Don't live angry, give up offenses toward me, release people of offenses toward me; give up resentment, bitterness; bless people who have deeply hurt, damaged, or wounded you?
- You say, “I just can't do it.”
- The hurt is too deep, the pain is too real.

Vs. 28 – “Live to Give (don't steal)”

- Give yourself away. If I live this way I won't survive, I won't have enough.
- Maybe God did say to trust Him and test Him to see if He will not give us blessings greater than what we can contain. **Mal. 3:10-11; Luke 6:38**
- If I live to give myself away relationally, financially, with my time, with my skills and talents; I will be taken advantage of. I just can't step out in this manner.

Vs. 29 – “Speak Only to Edify”

- The words of blessing might be powerful, but I can't believe my words would carry any weightiness of encouragement in anyone else's life.
- Or if I don't defend myself against this particular person with harsh words, I will never keep that person at bay in my life.

Vs. 32 – “Be Kind, Compassionate, Forgiving”

- Replace bitterness, rage, anger, shouting, slander, and evil intent with kindness, compassion, and forgiveness.
- Release unforgiveness!! Hanging onto it won't protect or comfort you, but will ruin you.