

Imitators of God

We've all heard the phrase, "*the apple doesn't fall far from the tree.*" Usually, it means children are like their parents. Isn't that true? Some kids are so much like their mom or dad that you can tell instantly whose child they are—their voice, their looks, their mannerisms—it becomes obvious.

There's a sense in which that saying ought to be true of every Christian. If we are God's children, then it should be obvious.

So here's a question to think about:

Can the people you work with, live with, and interact with tell that you're a Christian?

THE WORLD OUGHT TO RECOGNIZE CHRISTIANS BY THE WAY WE WALK.

Paul begins the chapter by saying, "*Therefore be imitators of God, as beloved children.*" (Ephesians 5:1). When children are young, they often want to be like their parents. They imitate what they see.

And if you have placed your faith in Jesus to save you, you are God's child. When you believed in Jesus,

everything changed. You became a child of God - no longer a child of wrath, but a loved child of God. You are saved, sealed, secure, and destined for heaven.

But the question is: What happens between now and then? Between the day you believe in Jesus and the day you go to heaven, what happens?

God doesn't just save His children—He changes them. God is working in you - shaping, molding, and transforming you - so that you become less like the unsaved world and more like Christ, making it obvious you are God's saved child.

From Ephesians 5, I want to show us **three ways to walk** so that it's obvious we belong to God.

Way #1 - LOVE: By walking in Love, we show the world whose child we are (Ephesians 5:1-7)

Therefore be imitators of God, as beloved children.

*2 And **walk in love**, as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us, a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God.*

3 But sexual immorality and all impurity or covetousness must not even be named among you, as is proper among saints. 4 Let there be no filthiness nor

foolish talk nor crude joking, which are out of place, but instead let there be thanksgiving. 5 For you may be sure of this, that everyone who is sexually immoral or impure, or who is covetous (that is, an idolater), has no inheritance in the kingdom of Christ and God. 6 Let no one deceive you with empty words, for because of these things the wrath of God comes upon the sons of disobedience.

Walking in love means:

1. Giving up selfishness for the glory of God and the good of others.
2. Running from sin that comes naturally and choosing gratitude that comes supernaturally.
3. Seeing sin the way God sees it.

Way #2 – LIGHT: By walking in light, we show the world whose kingdom we belong to (Ephesians 5:8–14)

The Bible says, “God is light, and in Him is no darkness at all.” If we’ve become His children through faith in Jesus, then as children of the Light, we should imitate our Father by living in the light instead of the darkness.

Paul reminds us that when we believed in Jesus, a drastic change took place—we were taken out of the domain of darkness and placed into the kingdom of Jesus. The transfer has already happened. Now Paul says, “*So live like it.*” Let the world see what God has done in you.

*7 Therefore do not become partners with them; 8 for at one time you were darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. **Walk as children of light** 9 (for the fruit of light is found in all that is good and right and true), 10 and try to discern what is pleasing to the Lord. 11 Take no part in the unfruitful works of darkness, but instead expose them. 12 For it is shameful even to speak of the things that they do in secret. 13 But when anything is exposed by the light, it becomes visible, 14 for anything that becomes visible is light. Therefore it says, “Awake, O sleeper, and arise from the dead, and Christ will shine on you.”*

Walking in light means:

1. Producing what pleases God.
2. Refusing to participate in darkness.
3. Shining so that others can see Christ in you.

Way #3 - WISDOM: By walking in Wisdom, we show the world who is in control of our lives (Ephesians 5:15-21).

The Bible tells us that “*the LORD gives wisdom; from His mouth come knowledge and understanding.*”

(Proverbs 2:6)

Wisdom is not something we generate — it’s something God gives.

A good definition of wisdom is this: *the God-given skill to live life the way God designed it to be lived.*

*15 Look **carefully then how you walk, not as unwise but as wise**, 16 making the best use of the time, because the days are evil. 17 Therefore do not be foolish, but understand what the will of the Lord is. 18 And do not get drunk with wine, for that is debauchery, but be filled with the Spirit, 19 addressing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody to the Lord with your heart, 20 giving thanks always and for everything to God the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, 21 submitting to one another out of reverence for*

Walking in wisdom means:

1. Knowing what time it is.

2. Knowing God's will.
3. Knowing where our strength is.
4. Knowing how to speak.
5. Knowing how to treat others.