

EPHESIANS

Real Love or Counterfeit Love

Main Scripture: Ephesians 5:1-7

The real—God's love (v 2)
(1 Jn 4:7-8)

The counterfeit—Satan's imitation (v 3-4)

The consequences—Our choice (v 1-2, 5-7)
(1 Thes 4:7, Rom 13:8-10, Act 24:24-25, Rom 5:5)

How to Avoid God's Wrath

1. Acknowledge that Jesus Christ is the only way to God and that you need Him in your life.

John 14:6, "I [Jesus] am the way the truth and the life, no one comes to the Father except through me."

2. Be willing to turn from the things that God would not approve of as outlined in the Bible, and instead, decide to live according to His Word; honour Jesus Christ by how you live your life. (Repentance)

1 John 1:9, "If we confess our sins, He [God] is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness."

3. Believe that Jesus Christ died for you on the cross and rose from the grave and accept His payment on your behalf.

John 3:16, "For God so loved the world that He gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have eternal life."

4. Through prayer, invite Jesus Christ to come into your life. Expect the Holy Spirit to live with you, live in you and give you power to live His way.

This prayer enables you to live eternally with Christ in heaven.

Lord Jesus,

I know that I am a sinner and that I need Your forgiveness. I believe that You died for my sins and I trust in You alone for my salvation. I choose to turn away from the things in my life of which You don't approve and now surrender my life to You. I invite You to come and reign and rule in my heart and life and open my spirit. Establish Your presence within me. I want to know the power of the Holy Spirit working in me and live forever with You in the Kingdom of God. I choose to trust and follow You as my Lord and Saviour.

Prayer of Repentance

Heavenly Father, I come to You in Jesus' name and acknowledge my sin of *(be specific)*. By choosing *(the sin you just mentioned)*, I have sinned against You and others.

Your Word says that if I CONFESS my sin, you are faithful and just to forgive my sin and cleanse me from all unrighteousness (1 John 1:9). I ask You now, Lord Jesus, to forgive me and cleanse me from all the guilt, shame and uncleanness of my sin. Let Your living water flow over my spirit, my soul and my body, cleansing me of the stain of this sin so that I can feel clean once again.

I also REPENT of this sin. From this day onward, I turn away from *(the sin mentioned above)* and choose to walk in holiness and purity and to make You Lord of my sexuality and all its expression. And with Your help, I seek to keep my heart clean.

In the power of Your Holy Spirit, I choose to live in obedience to Your Word and to be an imitator of You, walking in love toward You and others. Holy Spirit, fill my heart with Your love and enable me to love others in the way You love them.

In Jesus' mighty name,

Amen

Heartland Kids Weekend Bulletin

March 7/8, 2021



Ephesians 5:1-7

¹ Be imitators of God, therefore, as dearly loved children ² and live a life of love, just as Christ loved us and gave Himself up for us ... ³ But among you there must not be even a hint of sexual immorality, or of any kind of impurity, or of greed, because these are improper for God's holy people.

⁴ Nor should there be obscenity, foolish talk or coarse joking, which are out of place but rather thanksgiving. ⁵ For of this you can be sure: no immoral, impure or greedy person – such a person is an idolater – has any inheritance in the Kingdom of Christ and of God. ⁶ Let no one deceive you with empty words, for because of such things God's wrath comes on those who are disobedient. ⁷ Therefore do not be partners with them.”

The real – God’s love

- Did you know God’s love is different from our love? His love is **unconditional**, which means He loves us no matter what. We can’t do anything to make Him love us more or less.
- We also NEED God’s love. He created us to want to be loved – by God, our family and our friends.

The counterfeit – Satan’s imitation

- Satan gives people love with conditions, meaning IF we do something, then we will be loved. That is the exact opposite of God’s love!
- Satan’s fake love comes from greed. We use other things (toys, food, people) to make us feel loved, and since they aren’t **true love**, we always feel like we need more and more and more.

The consequences – Our choice

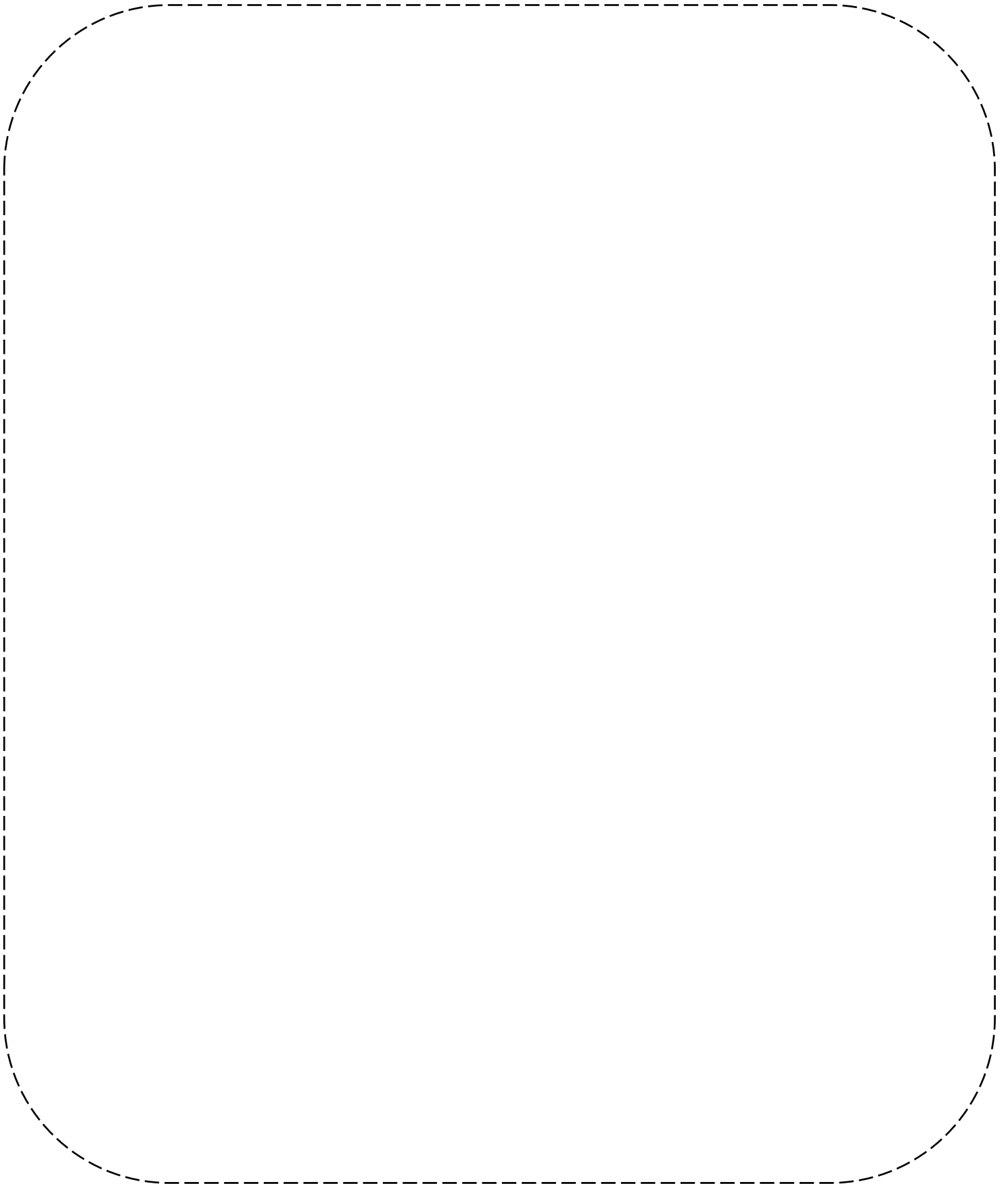
- When we choose God’s love, we need to ask Him to help us. We can’t give and receive real love ourselves; God has to help us make the right choices.
- We aren’t perfect people. We will mess up, but that’s okay! When we know we’ve done something that would make God sad, we can pray and ask for forgiveness. God loves it when we do that!

Some questions to discuss as a family:

Do you feel like you are unconditionally loved?

Is there something that you use to replace God’s love? (Greed)

Draw a picture of what you learned today.



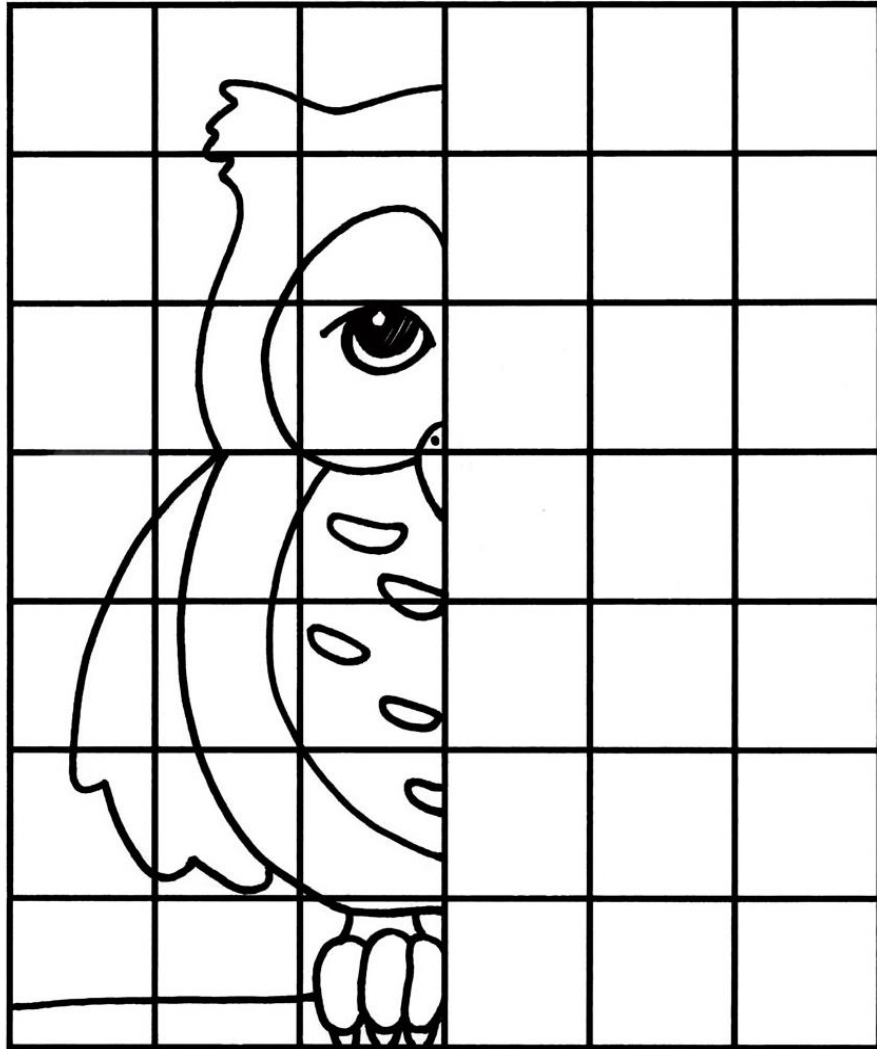
Family Challenge

Your family challenge this week is to do communion together. Grab something to drink and something to eat and watch the Heartland service video and follow along with Pastor Barry.

If you have any questions about if your child is ready for communion, please don't hesitate to email us at kids@heartlandalliance.ca or call the church office.

Counterfeit Coins

This week we learned how Satan makes counterfeit love that can fool people into thinking it's real! To see just how hard it is to counterfeit (make something that's fake) take a pencil and try and fill in the other half of the drawing below. Use the grid to help you make your side just like the real one. Then go through the questions below with your family.



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1. How easy/hard was it to finish the picture?
2. Does your side look the same as the original?

Satan puts a lot of time and effort into making his fake love look like the real thing. But, just like our picture, it always looks a little different. God's love is the only love that is real!

“Real Love or Counterfeit Love” | March 6 & 7, 2021

The Small Group Sermon Study

Ephesians 5:1-7



Opening Prayer: Father, in Jesus’ name, through the Holy Spirit, come and speak to us, teach us and transform us as we read, discuss and reflect on Your word.

1. Big Picture: What did you like or appreciate about this message? What challenged you in this message?

2. Read the key passage(s) of Scripture from the message and review the points from the sermon notes, then answer the following questions:
 - a. What does this tell us about God (Father, Jesus, Holy Spirit)? What do we learn about who He is, how He feels, what is important to Him, the actions He takes, etc.?

 - b. What does this passage tell us about Satan, about his purposes, nature or methods?

 - c. In what ways have you encountered this struggle between God’s real love and Satan’s counterfeit love in your life, or in the lives of people you know and love?

 - d. How can our small group help equip and support you in influencing others in your life to choose God’s real love?

3. What don’t you understand or what other questions does this passage make you ponder?

Silently re-read the key Scripture(s) from the message, asking the Holy Spirit to speak to you.

4. As you reflect on the list Paul provides in these verses, is the Holy Spirit pointing out any in particular for you at this time in your life?

5. What do you need to surrender to Jesus? How will you respond to what God is showing you about where you’ve settled for Satan’s imitation instead of God’s real love?

6. What verse, phrase or word do you need to take with you this week? How will you act on what you’ve heard?

Prayer: Spend time praying for one another (that we would grow in our love for God and others, that we would be transformed by what God has revealed, that we would be alert and obedient to God, etc.).