

Imitating Our Father

Ephesians 5:1-13

Isn't it strange how we catch ourselves sometime acting just like our father or mother...

Oh no I am acting like my father/mother

I call Robyn, Ethel sometimes when she acts like her mother... Always in a good sense of course.

Guys it's probably ok to compare them to their mother but Never compare them to your mother!

Often, I do things and think that sounded a lot like Daddy.

Last week we looked at the names of God and saw that He is our Father and we are His children.

Be ye therefore followers of God, as dear children;

Having been born again through faith in Christ, he is therefore one of the "partakers of the divine nature"

2 Peter 1:4

Whereby are given unto us exceeding great and precious promises: that by these ye might be partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust.

² And walk in love, as Christ also hath loved us, and hath given himself for us an offering and a sacrifice to God for a sweetsmelling savour.

Paul told them to "walk in love," he was not telling them to do something that was strange or difficult to the Christian life; because we have received a new nature that wants to express itself in love.

1 John 4:8

He that loveth not knoweth not God; for God is love.

The Holy Spirit puts this love in our hearts

Rom. 5:5

And hope maketh not ashamed; because the love of God is shed abroad in our hearts by the Holy Ghost which is given unto us.

The idea behind "sweet savor" is simply that the sacrifice is well pleasing to God.

This does not suggest that God is pleased that sin demands death, and that His Son had to die to save lost sinners.

Rather, it indicates that the death of Christ satisfies the holy law of God and therefore is acceptable and pleasing to the Father

³ But fornication, and all uncleanness, or covetousness, let it not be once named among you, as becometh saints;

⁴ Neither filthiness, nor foolish talking, nor jesting, which are not convenient: but rather giving of thanks.

These things are not characteristics of our Father

It's like Paul says; if you can't find anything else to do or say than this perversion, you could at least praise God for all He has done, rather than act out like this.

⁵ For this ye know, that no whoremonger, nor unclean person, nor covetous man, who is an idolater, hath any inheritance in the kingdom of Christ and of God.

⁶ Let no man deceive you with vain words: for because of these things cometh the wrath of God upon the children of disobedience.

Galatians 5:21, 1 Corinthians 6:9, Rev. 21:8

A Christian is not sinless, but he does sin less—and less—and less!

⁷ Be not ye therefore partakers with them.

⁸ For ye were sometimes darkness, but now are ye light in the Lord: walk as children of light:

1 Corinthians 6:9-11

⁹ Know ye not that the unrighteous shall not inherit the kingdom of God? Be not deceived: neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor effeminate, nor abusers of themselves with mankind,

¹⁰ Nor thieves, nor covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor extortioners, shall inherit the kingdom of God.

¹¹ And such were some of you: but ye are washed, but ye are sanctified, but ye are justified in the name of the Lord Jesus, and by the Spirit of our God.

Romans 8:14-17

¹⁴ For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, they are the sons of God.

*¹⁵ For ye have not received the spirit of bondage again to fear; but ye have received the Spirit of adoption, whereby we cry, **Abba, Father.***

Abba – Intimacy that says I love you so much, I want to obey your every word... I want to please you in every way.

¹⁶ The Spirit itself beareth witness with our spirit, that we are the children of God:

¹⁷ And if children, then heirs; heirs of God, and joint-heirs with Christ; if so be that we suffer with him, that we may be also glorified together.

⁹ (For the fruit of the Spirit is in all goodness and righteousness and truth;)

¹⁰ Proving what is acceptable unto the Lord.

¹¹ And have no fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness, but rather reprove them.

The work of the Holy Spirit within us. Without us saying a word sometimes. John 16:8

¹² For it is a shame even to speak of those things which are done of them in secret.

¹³ But all things that are reprov'd are made manifest by the light: for whatsoever doth make manifest is light.

¹⁴ Wherefore he saith, Awake thou that sleepest, and arise from the dead, and Christ shall give thee light.

¹⁵ See then that ye walk circumspectly, not as fools, but as wise,

¹⁶ Redeeming the time, because the days are evil.

There may be coming a time in the near future that it will be more and more difficult to share the gospel.

We need to be doing all we can now while we can.

That starts with Imitating Our Father, there is no time to be wasted on foolishness.

As Children do this...

¹⁷ Wherefore be ye not unwise, but understanding what the will of the Lord is.

¹⁸ And be not drunk with wine, wherein is excess; but be filled with the Spirit;

¹⁹ Speaking to yourselves in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody in your heart to the Lord;

²⁰ Giving thanks always for all things unto God and the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ;