

Reflecting Our Father's Likeness **Ephesians 5:1-17**

I. We Are Children Of God – 5:1-2

1. New Birth brought us into God's family
We were dead in our trespasses & sins – 2:1-3
God brought us into new life in Christ - 2:4-5
New life is transformed life – Eph. 4:17-32
2. God has given us a pattern to follow – 5:1
When God created He created us in His image
Gen. 1:26-27 gives us God's design for humans
God sent His Son to show His image in flesh –
John 1:14,18; 14:8-9
Christ died for us so God's image can be restored
"Be imitators of God, as beloved children" – Eph. 5:1

II. Walk in Love – 5:1-2

1. We are His beloved children – 1-2
The evidence of His love is seen in what Christ has done for us
"Christ loved us and gave Himself up for us"
"a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God"
Redemptive work of Christ brings us into God's family
2. Therefore we ought to love as He loved us
Our love for one another ought to be a reflection of His love
We ought to love one another sacrificially
Allow Christ to show His love through us
Christ's love reaches out even to those who are enemies

III. Walk in Light – 5:3-8

1. God is Light – 1 John 1:5-7
There is no darkness in Him
If we are to be in fellowship we must walk in light
2. Paul expounds on this in Ephesians 5:3-17
Light is purity and true holiness
As children of God we are to walk as children of light – 5:8
3. Sexual immorality, impurity, covetousness – 3-5
Let it not be named among you
That means also filthiness & crude joking – 4
Our talk should be given to thanksgiving
Covetousness (5:3) is a form of idolatry (5:5)
What we covet takes first place in our hearts
First place belongs to God alone
4. Don't be deceived with empty words – 6-8
Covetousness listens to man's words & promises
They let our hearts get focused on empty words
This was part of our former life – 7
Now you are in light in the Lord – 8
"Walk as children of light"

IV. Walk in Wisdom – 5:9-17

1. God is all-wise – Romans 11:33
He graciously shares His wisdom with us
James 1:5
His wisdom is found in His Word
His Spirit illuminates our hearts to understand
2. His light produces good fruit – 5:9
Man's words & promises are empty, deceitful
God's wisdom is good, right & true
Leads us to a promising future we can trust
This is what really matters – fruit, results
Wisdom urges us to an eternal value system
3. Wisdom chooses what pleases God – 10
Obeying God is the right path, right end
4. Wisdom walks in light of God's truth – 11-14
Works of darkness are unfruitful – 11
Don't produce right end – so avoid them
Instead the light exposes the darkness
Ultimately darkness will be exposed – 12-113
Doing them in secret indicates their shame – 12
They will be exposed under God's light – 13
5. Paul urges us to wake up – 14-16
Those in darkness sleep, dead
Need Christ's light to shine on them
Awaken them before it is too late – 15-16
6. Wisdom seeks to do God's will – 17
If man's way is darkness, foolish to do it
If God's way is light & fruitful, wisdom chooses it