

Ephesians: Imitators of God

Ephesians 4:25-5:2

Grace in Action (v. 25-29)

- As those who have experience God's grace, our behavior ought to look different from the world's
 - But remember, this change in behavior is the result of God's work of changing our minds and hearts first
 - Changed thinking → Changed desires → Changed actions

Therefore, no more:

- Lying
 - Erodes trust
- Unresolved Anger
 - Anger is an emotion, and therefore not a sin
 - What we do with it can be sinful
 - And can lead to other sins (v. 27)
- Stealing
 - Looking out for only oneself
- Tearing others down
 - Done through our speech

But instead:

- Speaking truth
 - Builds trust
- Forgiveness
 - Not about emotion
 - A repeated choice
 - And leads to reconciliation
- Giving
 - Looking out for the needs of others
- Building others up
 - Also done through our speech

Grieving the Spirit (v. 30-32)

- We grieve the Spirit by acting in a way contrary to the salvation He has guaranteed for us (Eph 1:13-14)
- So, we are called to get rid of such attitudes
 - Bitterness, rage, anger, brawling, slander, & malice (v. 31)
 - All of which tear down relationships
- And instead live out the salvation alive in us through the Spirit
 - Kindness, compassion, & forgiveness
 - All of which builds up relationships

Imitators of God (5:1-2)

- This transformed behavior *should* make us behave like more like God
- We imitate God as a children seek to imitate their father
- And Jesus is our example
 - We are called to live out love as He did

So What?

- God wants to change us from the inside out
 - Is our outward behavior the result of inward transformation?
- We are called to act like our heavenly Father
 - Are we living as children of God?
 - Like our big brother, Jesus

Meditation Verse: Ephesians 5:1