

Welcome to First & Faith United Methodist Church
Sermon Notes - October 18, 2020
Ephesians Series: “Imitators of God”
Ephesians 5 (CEB)

¹Therefore, imitate God like dearly loved children. ²Live your life with love, following the example of Christ, who loved us and gave himself for us. He was a sacrificial offering that smelled sweet to God. ³Sexual immorality, and any kind of impurity or greed, shouldn't even be mentioned among you, which is right for holy persons. ⁴Obscene language, silly talk, or vulgar jokes aren't acceptable for believers. Instead, there should be thanksgiving. ⁵Because you know for sure that persons who are sexually immoral, impure, or greedy—which happens when things become gods—those persons won't inherit the kingdom of Christ and God. ⁶Nobody should deceive you with stupid ideas. God's anger comes down on those who are disobedient because of this kind of thing. ⁷So you shouldn't have anything to do with them. ⁸You were once darkness, but now you are light in the Lord, so live your life as children of light. ⁹Light produces fruit that consists of every sort of goodness, justice, and truth. ¹⁰Therefore, test everything to see what's pleasing to the Lord, ¹¹and don't participate in the unfruitful actions of darkness. Instead, you should reveal the truth about them. ¹²It's embarrassing to even talk about what certain persons do in secret. ¹³But everything exposed to the light is revealed by the light. ¹⁴Everything that is revealed by the light is light. Therefore, it says, *“Wake up, sleeper get up from the dead, and Christ will shine on you.”* ¹⁵So be careful to live your life wisely, not foolishly. ¹⁶Take advantage of every opportunity because these are evil times. ¹⁷Because of this, don't be ignorant, but understand the Lord's will. ¹⁸Don't get drunk on wine, which produces depravity. Instead, be filled with the Spirit in the following ways: ¹⁹speak to each other with psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs;

sing and make music to the Lord in your hearts; ²⁰always give thanks to God the Father for everything in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ; ²¹and submit to each other out of respect for Christ. ²²For example, wives should submit to their husbands as if to the Lord. ²³A husband is the head of his wife like Christ is head of the church, that is, the savior of the body. ²⁴So wives submit to their husbands in everything like the church submits to Christ. ²⁵As for husbands, love your wives just like Christ loved the church and gave himself for her. ²⁶He did this to make her holy by washing her in a bath of water with the word. ²⁷He did this to present himself with a splendid church, one without any sort of stain or wrinkle on her clothes, but rather one that is holy and blameless. ²⁸That's how husbands ought to love their wives—in the same way as they do their own bodies. Anyone who loves his wife loves himself. ²⁹No one ever hates his own body, but feeds it and takes care of it just like Christ does for the church ³⁰because we are parts of his body. ³¹*This is why a man will leave his father and mother and be united with his wife, and the two of them will be one body.* ³²Marriage is a significant allegory, and I'm applying it to Christ and the church. ³³In any case, as for you individually, each one of you should love his wife as himself, and wives should respect their husbands.

Life Application Questions:

- 1) Can you accurately imitate someone you don't know? Why or why not?
- 2) How have you been an imitator of God?

Prayer: Gracious God, how I long to reflect the light of Your love as I journey through this dark world. Thank You for bringing me into the wonderful light of Your saving grace. Please help me walk in Your love so that I may be used as a vessel through whom Your Spirit of love, grace, forgiveness and healing may flow to others. In Jesus' name I pray, Amen.