

**Become Imitators Of God**  
Hope Chapel Honolulu  
Ephesians 4:32-5:21

“Be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, as God in Christ forgave you.  
Therefore be imitators of God, as beloved children. And walk in love, as Christ loved us  
and gave Himself up for us, a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God.”  
(Ephesians 4:32-5:2, ESV)

**Introduction**

The order of revelation through the Apostle Paul here in Ephesians is “sit, walk, stand.” In other words, because we have been seated with Christ in heavenly places (Ep1:20, 2:6), we are to walk in love with Christ (2:10, 4:1, 5:2) and to therefore stand against the ruler of this age by grace through faith in Christ (6:13-14). But when we think of today’s main point—to become imitators of God—the reasonable question might be “what about Christ: *did He sit, walk and stand?*” I would argue that Christ began “seated” at the Father’s side and in His pleasure, that the three and a half years of His ministry were a daily walk with the Father in the power of the Holy Spirit, and lastly that through His betrayal, condemnation and crucifixion, Christ stood fast in His witness to the power, love and faithfulness of the Godhead. But what about you and I, how are we to become imitators of God?

**1. Therefore we should walk in love as Christ loved us. (Ephesians 4:32-5:2)**

- a) God in Christ loves, accepts and forgives us, therefore we are to be and do likewise.
- b) What does it mean to “walk in love” as Christ loved us?

**2. Our walk in love is shown by our words, works and relationships. (Ephesians 5:3-10)**

- a) The apostolic application of “love God with all of our heart, soul, mind and strength.”
- b) The significance of Paul’s use of “*kenos logos*” (κενός λόγος) or “empty words” (v.6).

**3. Spiritual hearts, minds, words, works and relationships. (Ephesians 5:11-21)**

- a) Learning to show and tell the truth in love.
- b) Being filled with the Holy Spirit and becoming an instrument of praise and worship.

**Conclusion**

When our witness is empowered by the Holy Spirit, our hearts and minds are transformed to increasingly resemble Christ, and our words, works and relationships increasingly represent Christ. It’s not just what we know or experience of God’s power, but how we respond to and share God’s love, and how we trust in and extend God’s faithfulness to our neighbors as He has reached out to us.

**For our prayerful discovery, discussion and application:**

- 1) Why is imitation of God in Christ so important to our faith and witness?
- 2) Why is what we feel, decide, say, do and how we relate at least as important as what we know?
- 3) What seems to be the most important thing God is showing and/or telling you this week?

**052718cdg@hch**