

**Ephesians 4:31–5:2**  
**"Bearing the Family Resemblance in Love"**

*<sup>31</sup> Let all bitterness, wrath, anger, clamor, and evil speaking be put away from you, with all malice. <sup>32</sup> And be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God in Christ forgave you. <sup>5:1</sup> Therefore be imitators of God as dear children. <sup>2</sup> And walk in love, as Christ also has loved us and given Himself for us, an offering and a sacrifice to God for a sweet-smelling aroma.*

**We have been called to be children of the Father, conformed to Christ, which is a call to walk in love. So, we must put off all that is incompatible with love, and put on the character of Christ: kindness, tenderheartedness, forgiveness... all out of love toward and for the pleasure of our heavenly Father.**

**(The following is a machine-generated transcription. Please be aware of—and patient with—transcribing errors. If there is something confusing or obviously erroneous, you are welcome to listen to the audio recording, which you may find via [tinysa.com/hopewellarp](http://tinysa.com/hopewellarp))**

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Our father and his and we thank you that we may know you. And your son Jesus Christ who you have sent? For this is eternal life. We pray that you would help us now. By your spirit. To be your imitators as to your children. And to walk as our.

Perfect elder brother Christ. By the spirit of your son. Whom you have sent into our hearts. Grant his help for the preaching and hearing of your word, we ask him. Jesus' name. Amen.

Fusion is 31 through Ephesians 4 31 through Chapter 5 verse 2. These are God's words.

Let all. Bitterness. Wrath. Anger. Clamor. And evil speaking. Be put away from you. With all malice.

And be kind. To one another. Tenderhearted.

Forgiving one another. Even as God in Christ. Forgave you.

Therefore be imitators of God. As dear children.

And walk in love. As Christ also. Has loved us and given himself for us. And offering and a sacrifice to God. For a sweet smelling. Aroma.

So for the reading of God's inspired and inherent word. Back at the. Beginning of chapter four. Before he launched into how there's only one Christianity in that it especially comes from the life of Christ the head to being worked out in every member of the body and in some respects through every member of the body.

He'd begun in chapter four saying this. I therefore the prisoner of the Lord beseech you to walk. Worthy of the calling. With which you were called. And we know that the right way of walking is according to God's good law. It has laws good and it's a gift and it's a description of his character and it's commandments that show what it looks like when his character has worked out in our lives.

And we also know that our Lord Jesus summarized that law and two great commandments out. Well the first four commandments see some rise in the first grade commandment love the

Lord your God with all your heart soul mind and strength. And the second the last six he summarized and loved your neighbor as yourself so that when someone says well, I'm not really into all those commandments.

I just think we should love. Well, I just think we should love to which is why I'm into all those commitments. Because that's how God details out for us what it looks like to love him and to love others and so it's not surprising that having said at the beginning of chapter 4 therefore the prisoner of the Lord beseech you to walk worthy of the calling with which you are called he now tells us at the beginning of chapter 5 and walk in.

Love. That is what we have been called to walk in but our calling is to be children of the living God and conformed to Jesus and you can see that sandwiched around had the Oreos cream is walk in love and the chocolate cookies are be imitators of God as dear children right before and then as Christ also has.

Loved us and loved God. Loved us and given himself for us and loved God and offering and a sacrifice to God for a sweet smelling aroma, so Christ the only begotten son loved his father so much and his loved him, of course infinitely and perfectly within the triune. Godhead from all eternity, but it is ultimately out of love to his father.

That he loved us and gave himself for us. That as he loved us and did not put us did not put himself ahead of us but considered our needs ahead of his that patterned that he is to us from Philippians chapter 2 that there was a deeper love of Jesus for his father.

That that loved for us came out of. That he offered himself as a sweet smelling aroma to God. And so in as Jesus offered himself on the cross and God beheld how his son now become a man loved each of his people individually gave himself for each of his people personally and intentionally he said this is my beloved son.

And look how much he loves me. I am his beloved father. That he would offer me such a sweet smelling sacrifice as to give himself. For them. And so that imitating of God the Father and of God the Son in our calling which is what we are called to be not only dear children but clear children that more and more we would look like Father that we would bear that family resemblance that it would be like when you go somewhere you've never been before but your daddy has.

And someone says, oh yeah, you're so and so's son. That the way we love God and the way we love our neighbor would imitate our Lord Jesus and we would come to bear the family resemblance as he does. And so in keeping with what we have been seeing since the last third or so of Ephesians 4, there's a putting off and a putting on.

You remember verse 22 of chapter 4 put off concerning your former conduct the old man, and in verse 24 of chapter 4 put on the new man, which was created. According to God. To bear his resemblance and by his power and say the putting off in order, especially to walk in love is in verse 31.

Let all bitterness. Wrath. Anger. Clamor. And evil speaking be put away from you with all malice. And so every hard feeling every every passionate rising of fury that is not calculated according to what we walked to be angry about. Every quarrelling every gossiping anything at all he says at the end of verse 31 he summarizes and goes beyond all those other things put together.

Anything that seeks or delights in the ill of someone else the harming of someone else all. Malice. You put that away. And put that off. You put on being kind to one another. Being as committed to them to to them and they're good as you are to your own good.

It was not just commitment. There's affection. The Nintendo Hearted. Towards one another. And not this one is easy. But when it's hardest most counter-intuitive. Forgiving one another. I don't want you to indulge malice because here the Lord is saying be like me. You were my enemy. You hated me.

And you were hating and being hated by one another like the same apostle rights and titus chapter three and no one you indulge mouse, but I do want you to think about. Believer. Who has sinned against you. Someone who perhaps you still have hard or irritated or bitter heart courts.

The reason I want you to think about them is because they are your best candidate with him to obey Ephesians 4:32. Because you cannot practice for giving one another with somebody that you don't have something to forgive.

And that's the believer that we are to say okay even as God in Christ forgave me and what has he made me into I was his enemy. I was a cosmic rebel. I had committed treason against the king and the universe and the creation and I enjoyed it. I did not want to repent of that.

I did not want to come to him in order for me to even want to repent and to honor him he had to love me first. And he has brought me from that to chapter five verse one remembers and often these chapter divisions create this extra space. God in Christ didn't just forgive us did he we had that picture of the judge coming off the bench and taking the acquitted center home as one of his own children at his table, therefore be imitators of God as dear children.

You see whoever it is. If they're Christian. And if they're professing believer then we have a duty to one another that doesn't necessarily mean they're converted but it does mean that if they are caught in a sin that calls into question the credibility of that preventive profession, we have duties towards one another but if they're a Christian, They very well, maybe.

Then you and they are going to be dearer to one another than the most in love longest married sweet old couple you have ever seen in your life. And the resurrection there's no marrying you're giving in marriage and and I'm still gonna love. Heather better than I ever loved her.

When our love is sinless and she's gonna love me even better than she does now. When our love is sinless. And I will also love and be loved by my worst Christian enemy. Better. Than. There is that imitation of God as dear children. And forgiving one another as God in Christ has forgiven us that is coming.

So it's very important that we put off all of that fleshly resentment and bitterness. All of the quarreling or gossiping. And that we forgive as God in Christ forgave us. You guys pray every week we pray every week. I pray with you forgive us our debts as we forgive our debtors and then the Lord Jesus of all of the amazing things he's taught them to pray and that tiny little prayer.

Which one does he mention as soon as he's done? Since for if you do not forgive others. Near me there will your father in heaven forget you. How can he say that? Well it means that first thing God gives you when he saves you his ability to forgive others.

That for givingness. Is one of the first marks of being a Christian that being someone who has poor giveness why? Well, what does he make you a Christian for? To adopt you as his child to bless you as his child. To bequeath upon you all of his inheritance. As his child.

And it is especially in our forgiving other believers. That we bear that resemblance. As his child.

A man let us pray and ask him to produce that in us. Father we thank you that you have sent forth into our hearts. The spirit of your son. And we pray that he would continue and complete that good work that you have begun in us until the day of Christ Jesus.

On which he will be the firstborn among many brethren, which we ask in his name. Amen.