

Imitators of God (Ephesians 4:28-5:1)

- I. **Introduction**
 - A. Illustrations –
 1. mimicry and impersonations
 2. the natural influence of the character of fathers on their sons
 - B. We are created to imitate
 - C. Review context and read text
 - D. Outline of the sermon

- II. ***Grieving the Spirit* (Eph 4:30)**
 - A. Isaiah 63:9-10: *Grieving the Spirit* under the law vs. under grace
 - B. The Holy Spirit is a Person
 1. He can be *grieved* (saddened)
 2. the personal pronoun “*whom*”
 - C. Why should we not *grieve the Holy Spirit*?
 - D. How do we *grieve the Holy Spirit*?
 1. by living like the world
 2. this is why Christians are often miserable

- III. ***What we are to put off* (Eph 4:31)**
 - A. *bitterness, wrath, anger, clamor, slander*
 1. A warning to the Christian who does not mortify bitterness of the heart – it will escalate into a visible public outburst
 - B. *with all malice*
 1. Practical advice on bickering and strife from J.R. Miller

- IV. ***What we are to put on* (Eph 4:32)**
 - A. *be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another*
 1. ***be*** = *be becoming* – a work of the Spirit not from yourself
 2. ***kind*** = *useful, helpful, giving*
 - a. Titus 3:4-7 *the kindness of God*
 3. ***tender-hearted*** = *compassion and pity*
 - a. Matthew 18:21-27 – compassion manifested in forgiveness
 4. ***forgiving one another*** (*charidzomai*) – rooted in **grace**
 - a. and undeserved, unmerited forgiveness
 - b. Matthew 18:28-30 – unceasing and unwearying forgiveness
 - c. Matthew 18:31 – failure to forgive grieves the Spirit
 - d. Matthew 18:32-33 – harsh treatment of the pitiless servant
 - e. Matthew 18:34-35 – the unforgiving are not God’s children

- V. ***The basis, ground, model and motivation for our action* (Eph 4:32-5:1)**
 - A. *as God in Christ forgave you* (Eph 4:32)
 - B. *as dear children* (Eph 5:1)
 - C. A Gospel call to become children of the living God
 - D. Be lights to the world by living the Gospel and thus displaying God’s communicable attributes to the world