

“Imitate God’s Forgiving Love” (Ephesians 4:31–5:2)

Big Idea: God’s children must imitate his forgiving love.

I. Refuse a bitter heart of malice. (verse 31)

- a. A Bitter Heart
- b. An Angry Disposition
- c. Angry Shouts
- d. Slanderous Words

1 Corinthians 5:9–13; 6:9–11; Proverbs 26:20–21; 27:15–16

e. Malicious Intentions

Titus 3:1–3; Romans 1:28–32; Ephesians 4:17–24

II. Cultivate a tender heart of forgiveness. (verse 32)

a. A Kind Heart

Jonah 3:4–4:11; Psalm 145:8–17; Ezekiel 18:31–32

b. Tender Affections

Matthew 9:35–36; Jeremiah 13:15–17; 31:18–20; Hosea 11:1–4, 7–9

c. Imitation of God’s Forgiveness in Christ

III. Pursue a sacrificial walk of love. (verses 1–2)

a. Imitation of God as His Beloved Children

Matthew 5:44–48; Luke 6:35–36; Colossians 3:12–14; 1 John 4:7–12

b. Imitation of Christ's Sacrificial Love

Romans 12:1; Hebrews 13:15–16; Philippians 4:18–19; 1 Corinthians 13:1–3

c. Appreciation of Christ's Loving Atonement

Psalms 40:6–8; Hebrews 10:1–14