

IMITATORS OF GOD
DECEMBER 3, 2017

1 JOHN 5:4

BY FAITH:

1. We have victory over the world.
2. We access grace to give us victory in our marriages and families.
3. We experience rest in our souls when facing trials.
4. We get power to run our race, overcome sin and resist the devil.
5. We receive answers to prayers, healing, provision and forgiveness.
6. We receive the Spirit and please God.

GALATIANS 5:6

1. Faith is important, but without love, faith won't work.
2. Love is to motivate all we do. **1 CORINTHIANS 13:1-3** Without love, we are nothing, making a lot of noise, to no profit.
3. Whether Jew or Gentile, in Christ we are indebted to love, not the law. **ROMANS 13:8-10**
4. Paul emphasized faith and love. **EPHESIANS 1:15; 3:17**

EPHESIANS 5:1-2 (ESV)

1. To imitate means to mimic, copy or impersonate someone else.
 - A. Elvis has many impersonators. Graceland calls them "Tribute Artists." Imagine the effort it takes: Listening, watching, rehearsing every voice inflection, facial expression, mannerism and move!
 - B. It's been said that "Imitation is the highest form of flattery." This may or may not be true, but imitating God may be the highest form of worship. **MATTHEW 16:24** "Follow or Mimic me!"
2. Questions:
 - A. How can we who are imperfect imitate one who is?
 - B. How can we who sin imitate one who is sinless?
3. Answers:
 - A. We can't do it on our own! By believing God's Word and yielding our lives to the control of the Holy Spirit.
 - C. We are to spend time in the Word, closely observe the speech, conduct, character and behavior of Jesus, and ask the Spirit to change us according to **2 CORINTHIANS 3:18 (ESV)**
4. Three things Paul emphasizes about imitating God.
 - A. Walk in love. **EPHESIANS 5:1-2 (ESV)** (Agape)
 - B. Walk in the light. **EPHESIANS 5:8 (ESV)**
 - C. Walk circumspectly. **EPHESIANS 5:17 (KJV, ESV)**
 - Circumspectly means cautiously; with daily watchfulness; with attention to guard against danger.
 - **EXODUS 23:13 (KJV, ESV)**

WALKING IN LOVE – EPHESIANS 5:1-2 (ESV)

1. Love motivated the Father to give Jesus. **JOHN 3:16**
2. Love motivated Jesus to give His life. **JOHN 15:13**
3. We are commanded to imitate His love. **JOHN 13:34 (ESV)**
 - A. **1 JOHN 4:11-12 (ESV)**
 - B. **1 JOHN 3:16 (ESV)**
4. We are commanded to imitate His walk. **1 JOHN 2:6 (AMPC)**
 - A. Our walk means how we live, talk, act or behave. It means our conduct, character and attitude toward God and people.

CONCLUSION: Have we taken the time to study **1 CORINTHIANS 13:4-8 (AMPC)** so we can understand divine love? Is our motive to become the best Jesus impersonators we can possibly be, so Heaven can call us Jesus "Tribute Artists?"