

WALKING IN SACRIFICIAL LOVE Ephesians 5:1-2

The Lord commands us to do good unto all men without exception, though the majority are very undeserving when judged according to their own merits... [The Scripture] teaches us that we must not think of man's real value, but only of his creation in the image of God to which we owe all possible honor and love.

-John Calvin

Application

- Patrick gave two examples of God's attributes that we are specifically called to imitate: be perfect and be merciful. Think of other attributes that God has and give some practical ways that we could imitate God in those areas.
- I John 16-18 also talks about Christ's love and ours. What are some ways that you show Christ's love to people around you? Talk about what motivates you to do those things.

Imitate God as a child imitates a parent (Ephesians 5:1)

Created in God's likeness

Imitate Christ's life of sacrificial love (Ephesians 5:2)

What does it mean to walk?

What is Christ's love like?

Remember, we were loved first.

John 15:7-10

Getting to Know You

1. Think about a time that a child (it doesn't have to be your own) imitated something that you said or did. Tell the group how that made you feel.

Into the Bible

2. Just as last week, the passage we are studying starts with the word "therefore." What are the things in Ephesians 4:20-32 that would lead Paul to say that being an imitator of God is the appropriate response?
3. How does the close connection of the Father and Son ("the kingdom of Christ and of God" in verse 5) help us understand the way Christ's sacrifice could be pleasing to the Father?