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Epistle to the Ephesians: Imitating our Father's Love (5.1-17)

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Introduction

1. We are to mimic our heavenly Father
2. The apostle is simply arguing that children are like their parents in love (c.f. 4.32- 5.1-2)
 - a. Forgiving Love
 - b. Giving Love
 - c. Living Love

IMITATING OUR FATHER'S LOVE

- I. **Walking in Love (v1-2)**
 - A. Because we are God's children
 - B. Because we are God's beloved children
 1. God speaks of us the same way He spoke of Jesus Christ (Mat. 3.17)
 2. The Father loves us as He loves His Son (John 17.23)
 3. We are born into a loving relationship with the Father that ought to result in our showing love to Him by the way we live
 - C. Because we are purchased with a great price
 1. "Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends" (John 15.13)
 2. Christ's offering of Himself is a sweet-smelling savour, i.e. well-pleasing to God
 3. Our love is our response to His love for us
- II. **Walking as Children of Light (v3-14)**
 - A. Because we are saints of God (v3, 4)
 1. We have been set apart for God and no longer belong to this world of darkness (I Pe. 2.9)
 2. It is unbecoming of a saint to indulge in such sins
 - a) Sexual sins - fornication, uncleanness
 - (1) Fornication - sex outside of marriage
 - (2) Uncleanness - impurity, prostitution, homosexuality
 - b) Covetous - greed, intense desire to have more, love of money (Mat. 6.24)
 - c) Sins of the tongue - Filthiness, foolish talking, jesting
 - (1) Filthiness - obscenity, indecent or improper actions
 - (2) Foolish talking - lit. word of a moron, morality, one who makes light of high standards of behaviour
 - (3) Jestings - coarse joking

- d) Christians ought always God's Word on their lips, season their speech with grace (Col. 3.16) and with salt (Col. 4.6)
- e) Giving thanks
- B. Because we are kings (v5, 6)
 - 1. We ought to know that such will not have any part in the kingdom of God
 - 2. It is because of such sins that God's wrath is upon this evil world (Rom. 1.18ff)
- C. Because we are light (v7-14; c.f. II Cor. 6.14 - 7.1)
 - 1. Light produces goodness, righteousness and truth
 - a) Mat. 5.16, "Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven"
 - b) John 3.20, 21, "For every one that doeth evil hateth the light, neither cometh to the light, lest his deeds should be reprov'd. But he that doeth truth cometh to the light, that his deeds may be made manifest, that they are wrought in God".
 - 2. To love before the eyes of God, not hiding anything
 - 3. Revealing God's light in our daily lives
 - 4. Light reveals God; light produces fruit; but light also exposes what is wrong
 - a) Have no fellowship with darkness (Psalm 1)
 - (1) Do not show an interest in them
 - (2) Not even talk about them
 - (3) Christ was a friend of sinners and publicans but had no fellowship with them
 - (a) "He ate and drank with them; ... he did not refuse them, He did not reject them He mixed with them, He spoke to them" (Lloyd-Jones)
 - (b) "... they did not indulge in evil and foul and suggestive talk. They did not do in his presence" (Lloyd-Jones)
 - b) Reprove them
 - (1) "Does not mean to reprimand, condemn or denounce" (Lloyd - Jones)
 - (2) Rather, "to convince by means of evidence" or "to throw light upon these things" (Lloyd-Jones)
 - (3) It is to be done in love, sympathy and understanding

III. **Walking in Wisdom** (v15-17)

- A. Wisdom is to walk circumspectly
 - 1. Walk carefully with exactness by looking around so that we do not fall into sin
 - 2. The opposite would be walking carelessly and without guidance and forethought
- B. Because life is short (v16) - Seize the opportunities or significant moments
- C. Because of the evil days (v16)
- D. Because God has a plan for us (v17) - understand it
 - 1. "He is concerned with our perception of what God is doing in history and our wise response to it" (J. M. Boice)
 - 2. "Wisdom consists in perceiving where God is going and then jumping on his bandwagon" (J. M. Boice)