

imitation
FRAGRANCES
EPHESIANS 5:1-2



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“Therefore be imitators of God, as beloved children. 2 And walk in love, as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us, a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God.”

I want to argue that this text is not first and foremost a treatise on doing religious activities but actually a platform of understanding the very purpose and essence of what the new nature in us is to produce out of our lives. We don't walk out and start trying to imitate God but rather through our surrender to Him the reality of our justification is revealed through our imitation of Him.

1. CONFORMING TO GOD IS THE ESSENCE OF WHAT IS FIRST PRODUCED THROUGH OUR NEW NATURE.

2. IMITATING IS NOT GENERAL BUT VERY SPECIFIC.

3. IMITATING REQUIRES KNOWING THE CHARACTER OF GOD FIRST.

“WALK IN LOVE”

1. THE ABILITY TO LOVE DEPENDS UPON HOW DEEPLY YOU SENSE AND UNDERSTAND THE LOVE OF GOD AS SHOWN BY HIS FORGIVENESS OF YOUR SIN. (LOOK BACK AT EPH. 4:32)

2. THE ENTIRE ESSENCE OF YOUR LIFE IS TO BE CHARACTERIZED BY LOVE.

**WE HAVE LOST OUR PERSPECTIVE ON THE FACT THAT CHRISTIANITY IS
REALLY EMPOWERED MIMICKING.**

**IT'S NOT WHAT YOU WANT LOOK TO BE LIKE BUT WHOM. SO, WE HAVE A
CULTURE NOT LOOKING AT GOD-LIKENESS AS THE GOAL!**

“A FRAGRANT OFFERING AND SACRIFICE”

THE IDEA OF FRAGRANT OFFERINGS IS ALSO SPOKEN OF IN:

2 COR. 2:15-16-“FOR WE ARE THE AROMA OF CHRIST TO GOD AMONG THOSE WHO ARE BEING SAVED AND AMONG THOSE WHO ARE PERISHING, 16 TO ONE A FRAGRANCE FROM DEATH TO DEATH, TO THE OTHER A FRAGRANCE FROM LIFE TO LIFE. WHO IS SUFFICIENT FOR THESE THINGS?”

PHIL. 4:18-“I HAVE RECEIVED FULL PAYMENT, AND MORE. I AM WELL SUPPLIED, HAVING RECEIVED FROM EPAPHRODITUS THE GIFTS YOU SENT, A FRAGRANT OFFERING, A SACRIFICE ACCEPTABLE AND PLEASING TO GOD.”