

### A Striking Likeness

**read**

*Ephesians 5:1-2*

**think**

In Ephesians 5 Paul tells us to be “imitators of Christ.” Just as children mimic the behavior and characteristics of their parents, we are to imitate the behaviors and characteristics of Christ. We don’t have to wonder what our behavior should be in any given situation. In the Bible we have the biography of Christ as our perfect example

of how to respond to the circumstances we face each day with humility, love, wisdom, patience, kindness and grace.

This passage tells us that we imitate Christ by walking in love. But what does it mean to walk in love? When you take a walk, as opposed to a run, it allows you the ability to get a clearer picture of the things that surround you. We walk in love when we give careful attention to the moments of our lives with a mindfulness that sends each and every thought, encounter, action and reaction through the filter of “Am I thinking, speaking and treating others the way Christ would if He were in my shoes right now?” We walk in love when we reflect the nature of God in our thoughts and behavior. And we reflect the nature of God when we selflessly and consistently love others by placing their needs ahead of our own... just as Christ did for us.

Charles Spurgeon wrote that believers are to be a “striking likeness of Jesus Christ”... so striking a likeness that the world will say of us, “he has been with Jesus; he has been taught of Him; he is like Him.”

**apply**

- Describe the characteristics of Christ. What characteristics of Christ are easy for you to imitate? What characteristics are more difficult for you?
- Think back over your day. Can you remember a few things that you said or did today that you might do differently if you were being mindful of imitating Christ?
- Identify the things in your life that may be distracting you from being mindful of your thoughts and behavior. What can you do to change those things?

**pray**

Heavenly Father, forgive us for being poor imitators of you to our family, our fellow believers in Christ and the world around us. May your Holy Spirit fall fresh on us today and help us to be mindful of our call to reflect you in every thought, word and action. Help us to recognize each day the opportunities before us, big or small, to be the face of Christ to the world. And help us to selflessly love others as you have loved us.

**by Amy Williams**

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