

Imitators Of God

Glenwood United
Methodist Church

Pastor Leo A. Cunningham
August 12, 2018



Ephesians 4:25 – 5:2

Common English
Bible (CEB)



**Imitators
Of God**



Ephesians 4:25

Therefore, after
you have gotten
rid of lying, Each
of you must tell
the truth to
your neighbor

**Imitators
Of God**

Ephesians 4:25

(Continued)

because we are
parts of each
other in the
same body.



**Imitators
Of God**

A photograph of two fluffy ducklings in a grassy field. One duckling is standing and looking to the left, while the other is sitting in the foreground, looking towards the right. The background is a blurred natural setting.

Ephesians 4:26

**Be angry
without
sinning. Don't
let the sun set
on your anger.**

**Imitators
Of God**

Ephesians 4:27

Don't provide
an opportunity
for the devil.



**Imitators
Of God**

A photograph of two fluffy ducklings in a grassy field. One duckling is standing and looking to the left, while the other is sitting in the foreground, looking towards the right. The background is a soft-focus natural setting.

Ephesians 4:28

Thieves should
no longer
steal. Instead,
they should go
to work, using
their hands to
do good

**Imitators
Of God**

Ephesians 4:28

(Continued)

so that they
will have
something to
share with
whoever is in
need.



**Imitators
Of God**

A photograph of two fluffy ducklings in a grassy field. One duckling is standing and looking to the left, while the other is sitting in the foreground, looking towards the right. The background is a blurred natural setting.

Ephesians 4:29

Don't let any
foul words
come out of
your mouth.

**Imitators
Of God**

Ephesians 4:29

(Continued)

Only say what
is helpful
when it is
needed for
building up the
community



**Imitators
Of God**



Ephesians 4:29

(Continued)

so that it
benefits those
who hear what
you say.

**Imitators
Of God**

Ephesians 4:30

Don't make the
Holy Spirit of
God unhappy—
you were
sealed by him
for the day of
redemption.



**Imitators
Of God**

A photograph of two fluffy ducklings in a grassy field. One duckling is standing and looking to the left, while the other is sitting in the foreground, looking towards the camera. The background is a soft-focus green field with a blue sky.

Ephesians 4:31

Put aside all
bitterness, losing
your temper,
anger, shouting,
and slander,
along with every
other evil.

**Imitators
Of God**

Ephesians 4:32

Be kind,
compassionate,
and forgiving to
each other, in
the same way
God forgave
you in Christ.



**Imitators
Of God**

Ephesians 5:1

Therefore,
imitate God
like dearly
loved children.

**Imitators
Of God**



Ephesians 5:2

Live your life
with love,
following the
example of
Christ,



**Imitators
Of God**



Ephesians 5:2

(Continued)

who loved us
and gave
himself for us.

**Imitators
Of God**

Ephesians 5:2

(Continued)

He was a
sacrificial
offering that
smelled
sweet to God.



**Imitators
Of God**



**Imitators
Of God**

**Holy Spirit, let
us experience
all that you
would have us
experience.**

**Congregation:
Make your
presence known.**

Imitators Of God

Glenwood United
Methodist Church

Pastor Leo A. Cunningham
August 12, 2018



Understanding Ephesus



Imitators
Of God



Community Guidelines

Imitators
Of God

Ephesians 4:25 – 5:2

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Ephesians 4:25

Therefore, after you have gotten rid of lying, Each of you must tell the truth to your neighbor

**Imitators
Of God**

Ephesians 4:25

(Continued)

because we are
parts of each
other in the
same body.



**Imitators
Of God**

A photograph of two fluffy, brown ducklings in a grassy field. One duckling is standing and looking to the left, while the other is sitting in the foreground, looking towards the right. The background is a soft-focus blue sky.

Ephesians 4:26

**Be angry
without
sinning. Don't
let the sun set
on your anger.**

**Imitators
Of God**

Ephesians 4:27

Don't provide
an opportunity
for the devil.



**Imitators
Of God**

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Ephesians 4:28

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no longer
steal. Instead,
they should go
to work, using
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**Imitators
Of God**

Ephesians 4:28

(Continued)

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**Imitators
Of God**

Ephesians 4:29

(Continued)

Only say what
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Ephesians 4:29

(Continued)

so that it
benefits those
who hear what
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Be kind,
compassionate,
and forgiving to
each other, in
the same way
God forgave
you in Christ.



**Imitators
Of God**



**Paul wants
them to
understand you
can't live a new
life playing by
the old rules.**

**Imitators
Of God**

**So
What's
with
the
Ducks?**



**Imitators
Of God**

Ephesians 5:1

Therefore,
imitate God
like dearly
loved children.

**Imitators
Of God**



**Ducklings learn
by imitating
their parents.
Most children
learn by
imitating their
parents.**



**Imitators
Of God**



**Imitators
Of God**

Paul wants us
to imitate God
the same way
children (and
ducks!) imitate
their parents ---
that's how we
learn.

**Paul also wants
us to imitate
Christ:**



**Imitators
Of God**

Ephesians 5:2

Live your life
with love,
following the
example of
Christ,

**Imitators
Of God**



Ephesians 5:2

(Continued)

who loved us
and gave
himself for us.



**Imitators
Of God**

So What?



**Imitators
Of God**



**Imitators
Of God**

**What does
it mean to
imitate
God?**

Are we
imitating God?



**Imitators
Of God**



**Imitators
Of God**

**What does
it mean to
follow
Christ's
example?**

Are we
following
Christ's
example?



**Imitators
Of God**



**Imitators
Of God**

**Are there
United
Methodist
ways to help
us imitate God
and follow
Christ's
example?**

Means of Grace

Retrieved from
<http://www.umc.org/how-we-serve/the-wesleyan-means-of-grace>



**Imitators
Of God**



John Wesley taught that God's grace is unearned and that we were not to be idle waiting to experience grace but we are to engage in the means of grace.

**Imitators
Of God**

The means of grace
are ways God works
invisibly in disciples,
hastening,
strengthening; and
confirming faith so
that God's grace
pervades in and
through disciples.



**Imitators
Of God**



**Imitators
Of God**

**As we look at
the means of
grace today,
they can be
divided into
works of piety
and the works
of mercy.**

Works of Piety



Imitators
Of God



**Imitators
Of God**

**Individual
Practices –
reading,
meditating and
studying the
scriptures,
prayer, fasting,**

regularly
attending
worship,
healthy living,
and sharing
our faith with
others



**Imitators
Of God**



**Imitators
Of God**

**Communal
Practices –
regularly share
in the
sacraments,**

**Christian
conferencing
(accountability
to one another),
and Bible study**



**Imitators
Of God**



**Imitators
Of God**

**Works
of
Mercy**

**Individual
Practices -
doing good
works, visiting
the sick,
visiting those
in prison,**



**Imitators
Of God**



feeding the
hungry, and
giving
generously to
the needs of
others

**Imitators
Of God**

**Communal
Practices –
seeking justice,
ending
oppression and
discrimination**



**Imitators
Of God**



**Imitators
Of God**

**(for instance
Wesley
challenged
Methodists to
end slavery),
and addressing
the needs of
the poor**

These are
United
Methodist
ways to help
us imitate God
and follow
Christ's
example.



**Imitators
Of God**



**Next
Week...**

**Imitators
Of God**

Glenwood United Methodist Church

More
Than You
Asked

Pastor Leo A. Cunningham
August 19, 2018





**Imitators
Of God**

**And all
of God's
people
said,
"Amen."**