

WALK THE TALK //////////////////////////////////////



This page is designed for you to apply what you have learned from the Scriptures. Our goal is not just “to know” but to “act upon what we know.” (His Word, Our Walk!)

We encourage you to discuss the following questions with family, friends and your LIFEgroup. Although you can review it on your own, it will be most useful to you when processed with others!

1. What do you think are some of the main differences adopted children experience from children of natural descent? How does being adopted change a child's ability to imitate their adoptive parents?
2. What patterns or behaviors in your life have developed from what you 'caught' from authorities in your life even though they may have 'taught' you differently?
3. In what ways do you best imitate God?
4. How are love and self-sacrifice displayed on a daily, ongoing basis? In other words, how are they best reflected by a Christian?
5. We tend to think of destructive actions and patterns in our lives as how they affect or influence us. How is God affected by any 'dark' choices in our walk?
6. We have varied types of experiences with our earthly fathers. What steps can we take to ensure our image of God as Father is true to His revealed nature?

June 18-19, 2016 | Good, Good Father | Ephesians 5:1-17 | Steve Fish

We are God's Children.

- We are ADOPTED as God's sons (children).

*Ephesians 1:3 Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in the heavenly realms with every spiritual blessing in Christ. ⁴ For he chose us in him before the creation of the world to be holy and blameless in his sight. **In love** ⁵ he predestined us to be adopted as his sons through Jesus Christ, in accordance with his pleasure and will— ⁶ to the praise of his glorious grace, which he has freely given us in the One he loves. [emphasis mine]*

- We are designed to encompass all the FULLNESS of God.

*Ephesians 3:14 For this reason I kneel before the Father, ¹⁵ from whom his whole family in heaven and on earth derives its name. ¹⁶ I pray that out of his glorious riches he may strengthen you with power through his Spirit in your inner being, ¹⁷ so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith. And I pray that you, being rooted and established **in love**, ¹⁸ may have power, together with all the saints, to grasp how wide and long and high and deep is **the love of Christ**, ¹⁹ and to know this love that surpasses knowledge —that you may be filled to the measure of all the fullness of God. [emphasis mine]*

- More is CAUGHT than TAUGHT.

Therefore, imitate God.

Ephesians 5:1 Be imitators of God, therefore, as dearly loved children ² and live a life of love, just as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us as a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God.

- Each of us REFLECT God's image to others.

Good #1 - Led by love

Good #2 - Engaged in Self-sacrifice

Live as Children of Light.

Ephesians 5:8 For you were once darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Live as children of light ⁹ (for the fruit of the light consists in all goodness, righteousness and truth)

- What picture of God are others seeing in you?
- What picture of God have you received? Is it time to reconsider who God is as a good, good Father?