GOD'S IMITATORS

Eph.5 v1-21



BACKGROUND STORY

- The Holy Spirit wrote this letter to the church in Ephesus through His servant, Apostle Paul.
- Ephesus church was called "Loveless church" Rev.2v1-7
- Ephesus, now <u>Selçuk</u> in modern Turkey, was one of the most famous cities of the ancient Mediterranean. Founded in the Bronze Age and important from ancient Greek times, it contained the Temple of Artemis, one of the Seven Wonders of the World, and served as a crossroads between the East and West for centuries



IDOL WORSHIPPING

- The Temple of Artemis, <u>constructed</u> in the sixth century B.C., contained wondrous sculptures, including the multi-breasted <u>cult</u> <u>statue</u> of the goddess.
- Library of Celsus now in ruins.
- Ephesus wasn't just an important city for the pagans and idol worshippers of antiquity but for Christ as well. Acts.19 v13-20

Artemis of Ephesus in the Ephesus Museum.

Great Thinkers--Ephesus produced and fostered some of the brilliant minds and philosophers of the ancient world.

□ E.g --Hermodorus, a Roman laws writer, Alexander the orator.

□ Today, there is NO Christianity or a Christian church in Ephesus.

IMITATOR

- Greek= "Mimetes" {English "Mimic"}
- □ To mimic the gait, speech, accent, and manner of life of another.
- English definition: A person who copies the behavior or actions of another.
- □ ...AS dear children v1b.
- Means to "Imitate" GOD as children do their parents.
- Imitate His—His Acts, Words, Nature, Ways, Graces and Spirit.

IMITATING GOD

Summarized into Two (2):

1. His Attributes: His Acts and Words

2. His Character: His Nature and His ways

THE BOOK OF BEGINNINGS. GEN.1 V1-28

1. V1. God is a creator!

2. V2-3. God does Not complain. He simply speaks what He wants to see.

3. God is a God of Order.

- V 4-10. Heaven and Earth, Light, Sky, Separation of waters: Dry Land and the Sea.
- V11-12. Grasses, herbs producing seeds, fruit producing trees .
- V16-19. Sun and Moon.
- V20-25: Water and Sea creature; all kind of Animals.

THE CROWN OF HIS CREATION

□ V26-28; The Creation of Man.

Most important meeting between the Trinity.

□ Ps 8; 139v14; Eph.1v3-12.

4. God is a Faith God. He does everything by His Word and His Spirit.

--Learn as a child of God to declare God's Word! What God says you are, you have and can become!

Compare Gen 1v11 and 2 v4-6

5. God calls those things that be NOT...Rom.4v17.

6. God has No Limits

7. Nothing is Impossible with God!

HIS CHARACTER: HIS NATURE AND HIS WAYS

- 1. God is Holy: To imitate God and to plan to live with Him in all eternity is to love Holiness.
- 2. God is Righteous.
- 3. God is a just God. 2 Cor.5 v10, Gal.6v7-9
- 4. God is NOT a Respecter of persons.
- 5. God Cannot Lie—He is TRUTH. John.17v17.
- 6. God's Word is Surer than the whole creation.
- 7. God is Love personified.1 John 1v12-17
- 8. God is an ardent soul-winner! He sent Jesus into the world. Luke 19v10

CONCLUSION

Eph.5 v3-21.