

Learning Real Love

Ephesians 4:20-5:2

- I. Vertical – Focusing on our relationship with God: *Don't grieve* the Holy Spirit (Ephesians 4:30).
 - A. We either grieve or please God by the way we think and live (Ephesians 4:30a; 5:10).
 - B. We are motivated to please instead of grieve the Holy Spirit because He secured and completes our salvation in spite of our sin (Ephesians 4:30b).
- II. Horizontal – Relating to people the way God relates to us: *Imitate* God's grace and sacrificial love (Ephesians 4:31-5:2).
 - A. Imitate God by giving others undeserved Grace (Ephesians 4:31-32).
 1. Stop relating in ways that grieve God (4:31).
 - Bitterness – resentment
 - Rage – outbursts
 - Anger – grudges
 - Brawling – quarreling, raised voices
 - Slander – putting others down
 - Malice – wishing or plotting evil
 2. Treat others with grace like God treats us (4:32).
 - Be Kind (= gracious) and Compassionate (sensitive)
 - Forgive (= “give grace”) like God forgave us
 - B. Imitate God by loving sacrificially (Ephesians 5:1-2).
 1. To imitate God's love, we must first realize how dearly we are loved by God (5:1).
 2. To “live a life of love” we must love others sacrificially like Christ – at great cost to ourselves (5:2).