

Digging Deeper: The Greater Meaning of Ephesians 5:1

Friday, October 30, 2026

“Therefore, become imitators of God, as beloved children.” (Ephesians 5:1)

Paul wrote these words right after describing God’s kindness, compassion, and forgiveness. (Ephesians 4:32) The main point is simple: when we think deeply about what Jehovah is like, we want to be more like him. As the day’s text explains, that includes his rocklike qualities. The more we reflect on how he has steadied his servants in hard times, the more we can lean on him ourselves and become a source of stability for others in the congregation.

1 “Imitators”: Learning by Copying (μιμηταί, *mi·me·tai*)

The Greek word for “imitators” is μιμηταί (*mi·me·tai*). It describes someone who copies another person’s example, and our English word “mimic” comes from the same root. Paul isn’t asking us to admire Jehovah from a distance. He’s asking us to watch how God acts and then do the same.

To copy someone, you first have to study them. Moses described Jehovah this way: “The Rock, perfect is his activity, for all his ways are justice. A God of faithfulness who is never unjust.” (Deuteronomy 32:4) That is why the day’s text urges us to “think deeply” about Bible accounts and modern experiences. Each one shows us a little more of the Rock we’re trying to imitate.

- I can only imitate what I’ve taken the time to observe.

2 “Beloved”: Love Comes First (ἀγαπητά, *a·ga·pe·ta*)

The word “beloved” is ἀγαπητά (*a·ga·pe·ta*), from the same family as agape, the Bible’s word for principled, unselfish love. It means “dearly loved.” Notice the order: Paul reminds us that we are loved before he tells us what to do.

The very next verse says: “Go on walking in love, just as the Christ also loved us and gave himself for us.” (Ephesians 5:2) We don’t imitate God to earn his love. We imitate him because we already have it. That makes the effort feel less like pressure and more like a grateful response.

- Knowing that Jehovah loves me gives me the security to keep trying, even when I fall short.

3 “Children”: Small Steps That Please a Father (τέκνα, *tek'na*)

The word for “children” is τέκνα (*tek'na*), from a verb meaning “to give birth.” It points to a real family bond, not just a title. The NWT study note on this verse makes a warm point: a child can’t imitate a grown parent perfectly, but the child’s sincere efforts are sure to make the parent happy. As the psalmist said: “Jehovah finds pleasure in those who fear him, in those waiting for his loyal love.” (Psalm 147:11)

Children who copy a good father end up helping the rest of the family. Jesus named Simon “Cephas,” meaning “A Piece of Rock,” because he would become a source of stability to others. (John 1:42) Elders are described as being “like the shadow of a massive crag in a parched land.” (Isaiah 32:2) But as the

day's text says, the whole congregation benefits when all of us, brothers and sisters, imitate Jehovah's rocklike qualities.

- My imperfect efforts to be like Jehovah still bring him joy, and they can steady someone near me.

Key Spiritual Reflections

- **Thinking Deeply:** What Bible account or experience could I reflect on this week to see more clearly how Jehovah supports his servants? (Deuteronomy 32:4)
- **Moved by Love:** Do I try to imitate Jehovah because I feel I have to, or because I know how much he loves me? (Ephesians 5:2)

- **A Piece of Rock:** Who in my family or congregation could use some steady support from me right now, and how can I give it? (Isaiah 32:2)