

**Ephesians 5:1-2**

I remember the time before I was a Christian, I often ask myself who really am I in this universe, and what is the purpose of life so that I would know what I should do. That caused me to seek the answer, and finally I found Jesus and that is the answer. After I became a Christian, the same type of questions shall be answered so that I know what is God's will for me. I think many of you are or were in the same situation. I remember I was taught if one really wants to know the answer on a topic, one must ask questions of who, what, when, how and why. I found the book of Ephesians has answers to so many questions in life. The content of just these two verses gives me the answers of who, what, when, how and why for my life. It is very likely these verses can give you the answers for your life also.

Ephesians is one of Paul's four epistles written in Rome prison (Phil., Col., and Philem.). He wrote this letter around 61-63 A.D. This epistle was very likely intended to be passed around to several churches in the area surrounding Ephesus. This letter covers the important topics of Christian belief and Christian duties which it is not like other letters that address many specific local church problems. Thus, the two verses that we are going to study covers the basic Christian belief and duties.

Eph. 5:1-2 "Be imitators of God, therefore, as dearly loved children 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."

**1) Who**

I always know I am a dearly loved child of my parents. When I became a Christian many years ago, I recognized that I belongs to God in His kingdom. Being a citizen in a perfect kingdom is good. Realizing I am one of the dearly loved children of the almighty God, our heavenly Father, is even better! That is who I am and who you are! This fact confirms your and my identity with confidence, securing us with love, protection and provisions from God. This is a great joy!

**2) What**

Next is "what we need to do as children of God". It states to be imitators of God. It means to be like God. The instruction is to live a life of love because God love

us. This command is also given in the gospel books as the “greatest commandment” that is to love God and love people (Matt. 22:36-40, Mark 12:28-34, Luke 10:25-28, John 13:34)

### **3) When**

The command of “be imitators of God” has no specific time. It shall be continuous. We shall be an imitator of God in the past, present and the future.

### **4) How**

Be imitators of God means to copy God. One translation uses follow God. I Peter 2:21 has the same message “To this you were called, because Christ suffered for you, leaving you an example, that you should follow in his steps.” We need to love, have mercy, be righteous, impartial, faithful, humble, patience, forgive others, etc. as God does. We need to pray to God, obey God and seek & do His will.

### **5) Why**

The answer is God love us. He sent His son Jesus to die for our sins, and Jesus has risen so that each of us can have a new life, an eternal life with Him (Eph. 5:2, John 3:16, Rom. 5:8, Rom. 6:4). Life on earth without God is actually meaningless since we will die physically. Book of Ecclesiastes describes human life situation. But when we repent and accept Jesus as our savior and Lord, God has a plan for our new walk of life. God gives each of His child a future and hope as Jeremiah 29:11 described. I got the answer of “Why I should live or what is the purpose of life” after I clearly understood God’s love, the redemption and His promises. Thus, I accepted Jesus as my savior many years ago. I experienced that new walk of life after I accepted Jesus as my savior.

Since God love me and gave me a new life, I love God back as a response. Our responses to God that is all our works and actions shall be fragrant offerings back to God. We shall offer ourselves as living sacrifices as instructed in Rom. 12:1.

If you have not experienced the fulfilling life in God or don’t know the purpose of life, I encourage you to seek God and accept Jesus as your savior and Lord. For those that have, I encourage you to continue be imitators of God. May God bless you!