

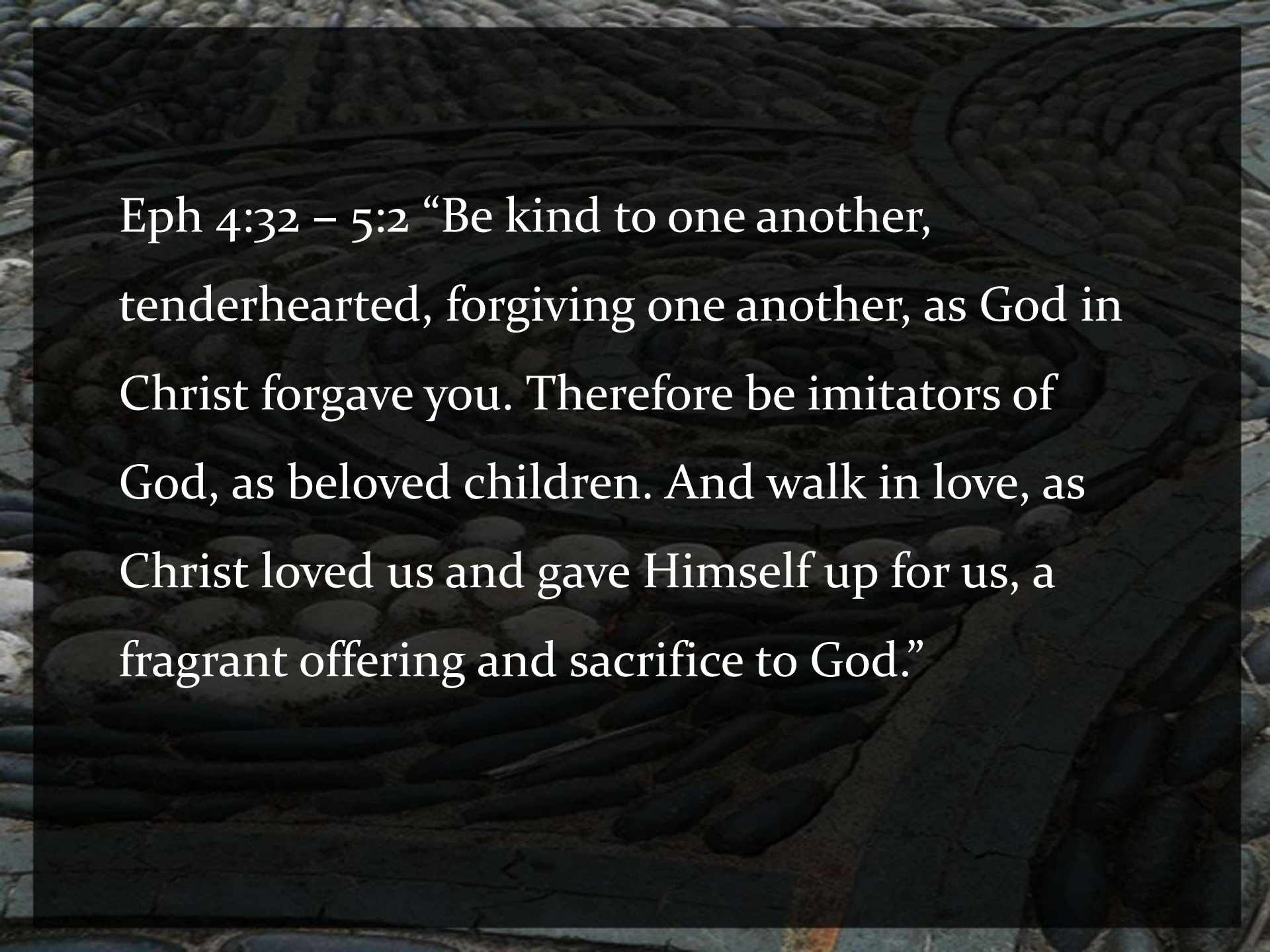


Passing on Faith

Patterns and Pathways

Series – Passing on Faith

- Designed by God
 - Design of God is faith passed on
 - light to world – Phil. 2:15
 - known by love – John 15
 - sharing Gospel matters – Rom. 10:14ff
 - ambassadors – 2 Cor. 5:18-21
- Great Commission Mandate – Matt. 28:18ff



Eph 4:32 – 5:2 “Be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, as God in Christ forgave you. Therefore be imitators of God, as beloved children. And walk in love, as Christ loved us and gave Himself up for us, a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God.”

3 times Paul suggests – like God does...

- as dearly loved children
- regardless of age or life situation
- pattern set for you by Father

Begins in the heart

- conviction about who God is
- loving Him, and desiring to follow
- seeing these things in his actions towards you

Determination to establish a pattern,
pathway for those around you

1. Be Kind

- seems like an easy one – of course be kind
- think – don't do unkind things!
- develop kindness – Imitating God in this
- look at our homes first
 - kindness between spouses
 - kindness with children, between kids
 - kindness towards extended family
- culture – unkindness & humor
 - self interest, against putting others 1st
- quality that sets us apart – being kind

2. Be Tender-hearted

- world pattern – be tough, protect yourself, keep your guard up
- seen as weakness that will be abused
- God is tender-hearted towards us

Psalm 23

“The LORD is my shepherd; I shall not want. He makes me lie down in green pastures. He leads me beside still waters. He restores my soul. He leads me in paths of righteousness for his name's sake.

⁴ Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil, for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they comfort me.⁵ You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies; you anoint my head with oil; my cup overflows.⁶ Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life, and I shall dwell in the house of the LORD”

John 10:7-15 So Jesus again said to them, “Truly, truly, I say to you, I am the door of the sheep. ⁸ All who came before me are thieves and robbers, but the sheep did not listen to them. ⁹ I am the door. If anyone enters by me, he will be saved and will go in and out and find pasture. ¹⁰ The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I came that they may have life and have it abundantly. ¹¹ I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep.

¹² He who is a hired hand and not a shepherd, who does not own the sheep, sees the wolf coming and leaves the sheep and flees, and the wolf snatches them and scatters them. ¹³ He flees because he is a hired hand and cares nothing for the sheep. ¹⁴ I am the good shepherd. I know my own and my own know me, ¹⁵ just as the Father knows me and I know the Father; and I lay down my life for the sheep.”

- two marks of tender-hearted
 - a) compassionate – a feeling of deep emotion & sorrow for another who is stricken by misfortune, desire to alleviate their suffering.
 - b) sympathetic – hear what others feel and say, open to being affected
 - power of sharing feelings of another, especially in sorrow or struggle
 - Rom. 12:15 “Rejoice with those who rejoice, weep with those who weep.”

3. Forgiving one another – as Christ forgave you.

a) as Christ forgave you

- Rom. 5:8 – while we were still sinners

- - Exd. 34:6 The LORD passed before

him and proclaimed, “The LORD, the

LORD, a God merciful and gracious,

slow to anger, and abounding in

steadfast love and faithfulness,

⁷ keeping steadfast love for thousands,

forgiving iniquity and transgression

and sin”

- Psalm 103:12 – far as east is from the west, he removes our sin
- Repentance important in this pattern
 - confession, owning our sin
 - turning from, turning towards
- Acceptance & Walking in forgiveness
 - dearly loved children – forgiven
 - entering boldly into his presence
 - living as those forgiven

As this is your pattern, your pathway so...

b) Forgiving One Another

- no option to hold things against
- question – how has this been handled in your homes?
- is repentance modeled & taught?
- is living in forgiveness the pattern?
- Think of patterns and pathways....
 - in lives marked by holding grudges
 - in those marked by no repentance
 - in lives where bitterness lives

Therefore.....

4. Be imitators of God

- beloved children – value your position

a) walk in Love

- look at Jesus

- hearts and motivations be affected

5. Model This in Life

- remember the pattern in Deut. 6

a) Time for Discipleship

- instructing from Scripture, learning about who God is and what He has done.

b) Moments for Discipleship

- engaged in life, talking & relating current events and God

- placing forgiveness, kindness, tender hearted living into our circumstances

c) Milestones of Discipleship

- pictures of sponsor kids, signs of God's provision, evidence of the work

So What?

1. Passing on Faith involves your Heart
2. Three Challenges to imitate Christ
 - a) Kindness
 - b) Tender-heartedness
 - c) Forgiveness
3. You are setting the patterns and pathways for these things, helpful ways
4. Intentional time, moments that matter, markers and milestones