

MIRROR IMAGE OF CHRIST

Ephesians 5:1-7

INTRODUCTION: A mirror doesn't create an image; it reflects what stands before it. In Christ, we are not striving to manufacture holiness or earn the Father's love. We are beloved children, transformed by grace and empowered by the Spirit, called to reflect God's character, love, purity, and truth in a dark world.

I. WE SEE GOD'S IMAGE IN US v.1

A. We imitate God from identity, not insecurity.

1. We do not obey to become loved but because we are already loved. *1 John 5:3*
2. It was the finished work of Jesus Christ that made us accepted before the Father.
3. Grace changes our behavior by first establishing our identity in Christ. *Galatians 6:15*

B. We live as children who have already been brought near.

1. Through the cross, we are forgiven and adopted into God's family. *Ephesians 1:4-5*
2. The Father does not relate to us through condemnation, but through the shed blood of Christ.
3. Our holiness was established by faith in and flows from our relationship with Christ, not religious performance. *Galatians 2:20-21*

C. We reflect Jesus because His Spirit lives in us.

1. The Holy Spirit empowers us to become like Christ. *2 Corinthians 3:18*
2. God's grace produces transformation from the inside out.
3. We imitate God by yielding to the life of Jesus within us. *Romans 8:11*

II. WE SEE GOD'S LOVE IN US vv.2-3

A. Christ's love is the pattern for our love. v.2

1. Jesus gave Himself freely, not because we earned it. *Romans 5:8*
2. His love was sacrificial, gracious, and complete. *Colossians 2:9-10 NLT*
3. We love others because His love has been first poured into us. v.2

B. Christ's offering makes our lives pleasing to Him.

1. Jesus became the perfect offering on our behalf. *Hebrews 10:11-12*
2. We are accepted by God because of Christ, not because of our own perfection.
3. Our lives become a fragrant offering as we respond to His grace. v.2, *2 Corinthians 2:15*
 - a. Jesus became a fragrant offering unto God.

b. So now in Christ, we smell like Jesus to God.

c. Before you came to Jesus, you didn't smell as good.

C. Grace teaches us to reject what no longer fits our new life. v.3

1. Sexual immorality, impurity, and covetousness do not match who we are in Christ.

2. We do not resist sin to earn righteousness; we resist sin because we have been made righteous.

3. Grace empowers us to leave behind the old life and walk in the new. *Galatians 5:16*

III. WE SEE OUR TRUE INHERITANCE vv.4-7

A. We reject sinful practices because they no longer define us.

1. The cross broke the power of sin over our lives. *Romans 6:6-7*

2. We are no longer slaves to impurity, greed, or corrupt speech. v.4

3. In Christ, we have been given a new nature and a new direction. *Colossians 3:9-10*

B. We replace corrupt speech with thanksgiving. v.4

1. Grace changes the heart and a changed heart changes the mouth. *Luke 6:45*

2. Thanksgiving reminds us that everything good comes through God's grace. *Romans 4:20*

3. We can rest in the knowledge that we have received our inheritance in the kingdom of Christ. v.5, *1 Peter 2:9*

C. We refuse deception because grace has brought us into the truth.

1. Empty words try to excuse what Christ died to free us from. v.6
2. The sons of disobedience are the ones who reject the Gospel of Jesus Christ.
3. We do not partner with darkness because we now belong to the kingdom of Christ. v.7

CONCLUSION: Because we are loved, accepted, and made new in Christ, we now reflect Him in how we live, love, speak, and resist darkness. Grace has given us a new identity and a true inheritance. Let us walk as children of God, yielding to the Spirit, and becoming a clear mirror image of Christ.