

Lesson 13: Imitating Our Heavenly Father



We are called to lead holy and loving lives.

Study at a Glance: The 5 W's

KEY AREA	DETAILS AND SUMMARY
WHO (Author & Audience)	
WHAT (Core Message)	
WHEN (Timing)	
WHERE (Location)	
WHY (Rationale)	

Introduction: Imagine standing in front of a mirror that does more than show your face. It reveals your heart, your reactions, your secret thoughts and then beside your reflection appears the face of your Heavenly Father. Which image are you actually imitating: your flesh, your culture, or your Father in heaven? This lesson is an invitation to let the Spirit realign our lives so that, when people look at us, they get a clear glimpse of Him.

Key Terms Defined. **The Greek words and definition MUST relate to the text**

TERM	ORIGINAL WORD in Greek	DEFINITION (Contextual)
	Greek word (agapē)	
	Greek word (oiktirmōn)	
	Greek word (patēr)	
	Greek word (mimētēs)	
	Greek word (sperma)	
	Greek word (hagnizein / hagnos)	

Transition into Section 1:

Most people love those who love them back, but Jesus calls us to a radically different standard. In Luke 6:27–36, He commands us to love enemies, bless those who curse us, and do good without expecting anything in return, so that we may resemble our **Father** who is kind to the ungrateful and the evil. This is not sentimental love; it is a supernatural, Spirit-enabled love that reveals whose children we really are.

SECTION 1: Love Like Our Heavenly Father

Luke 6:27–36

Discussion Questions

1. **Text/Exegesis** Why does Jesus tie these commands to being “sons of the Most High” (Luke 6:35)?
2. **Reflection:** How does obeying Luke 6:31 (“as you would that men should do to you, do ye also to them likewise”) challenge the way Christians often respond on social media, in politics, or in church conflicts?

Transition to Section 2:

In a culture that often produces spiritual orphans, people with church experiences but no real discipleship, Paul's relationship with the Corinthians stands out. He writes not as a distant authority but as a **spiritual father** who has begotten them through the gospel and longs to see Christ formed in them. His example shows what it looks like to imitate our Heavenly Father by nurturing, correcting, and modeling the life of Christ for others.

SECTION 2: Paul Exemplifies a Spiritual Father (1 Corinthians 4:14–21)

Discussion Questions

1. What is the difference between having many “instructors” and having a “father” in the faith?
2. Paul was willing to come “with a rod” or “in love and a spirit of meekness” (1 Corinthians 4:21). What does this teach us about the balance of discipline and gentleness in spiritual leadership?

Transition to Section 3:

John reminds believers that when Christ appears, we want to have confidence, not shame, at His coming. Those who are truly born of God do not continue practicing sin as a way of life, because God's seed remains in them. Holiness is not about legalism; it is about family resemblance. Children of a holy Father cannot be comfortable living in what He hates.

SECTION 3: Holiness Resembles Our Heavenly Father (1 John 2:28 – 3:9)

Discussion Questions

1. **Text/Exegesis:** How does 1 John 3:6–9 distinguish between occasional sin and a lifestyle of sin?
2. **Application:** What is one area of your life where you sense the Spirit calling you out of habitual compromise so that your life better reflects your Father's holiness?

Closing: Bringing It All Together

Every one of us is imitating someone. Some copy the patterns of their upbringing, others the attitudes of their culture, and many the impulses of their own wounded hearts. But Scripture calls us to a higher pattern: to love like our Father, to nurture others like spiritual fathers and mothers, and to walk in holiness as children who bear His **name**. As you leave this lesson, ask yourself: “If someone only knew God by watching my life this week, what kind of Father would they think He is, and what needs to change so that my reflection of Him becomes clearer?”