

Ephesians 4.¹⁷-5.²

God's gift of life



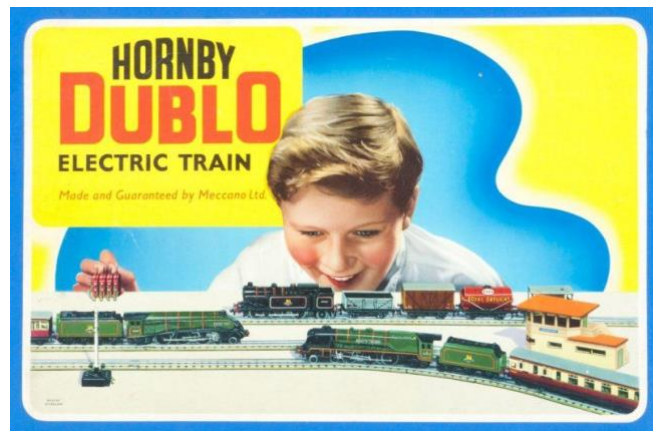
What was the best present you were ever given?

Can you remember how excited you were when you opened the parcel and saw what the present was?

Here's one of the best presents I ever received when I was a boy.

(That's not me in the picture, in case you're wondering!

But it was exactly that train set I was given.



I've still got it! And it still works, almost 60 years later! And any chance I get I still play with it!



Receiving a present is only the start!

You want to open it, and then use it.

If it's a **toy** you'll want to play with it.

If it's **clothes** you'll want to wear them.

If it's a **book** you'll want to read it.

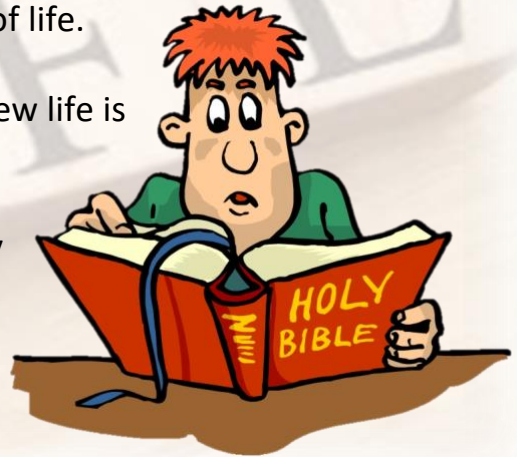
Life is to be lived!

Today's passage in the Bible is about the gift of life.

God has given us new life in Jesus: and that new life is what Paul calls 'the life of God'.

That's to say, the life we've been given is really

God living His life
in us and through us by His Spirit



Paul was explaining to the believers at Ephesus two things –

1. What that new life looks like

Ephesians 4.25-29

²⁵Therefore each of you must put off falsehood and speak truthfully to your neighbour, for we are all members of one body.

²⁶'In your anger do not sin': do not let the sun go down while you are still angry, ²⁷and do not give the devil a foothold.

²⁸Anyone who has been stealing must steal no longer, but must work, doing something useful with their own hands, that they may have something to share with those in need.

²⁹Do not let any unwholesome talk come out of your mouths, but only what is helpful for building others up according to their needs, that it may benefit those who listen.

Have a read of the passage in the box alongside. Write down four ways Paul says the life of God will be seen.

v.25

vv.26-27

v.28

v.29



2. How we learn to live that new life

The first lesson we have to learn is the lesson which the crew in a boat race, or the musicians in an orchestra, have to learn.



What do you think will happen if the crew of the boat or the musicians in the orchestra don't keep in time with the leader, and just 'do their own thing'?



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We're to learn to take our cue from the Holy Spirit. That means there'll be some bad habits we drop, and other ways of behaving which we adopt: see if you can spot below words Paul uses in **Ephesians 4.32**



The second lesson we have to learn is that of

copying



See if you can find the word below which is the exact copy of the word above. Draw a circle round it when you find it: you'll have to look closely!



copying **copying** copying

copying **copying** coping

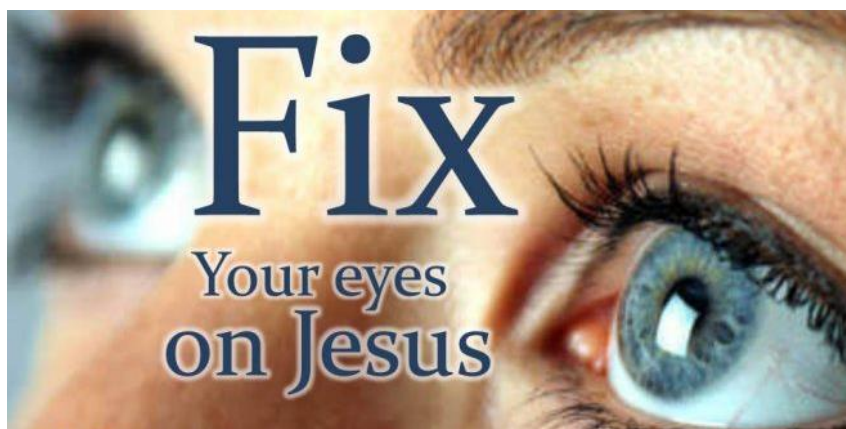
copying copying copying

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Paul says we are to

“Be imitators of God .. as dearly loved children”

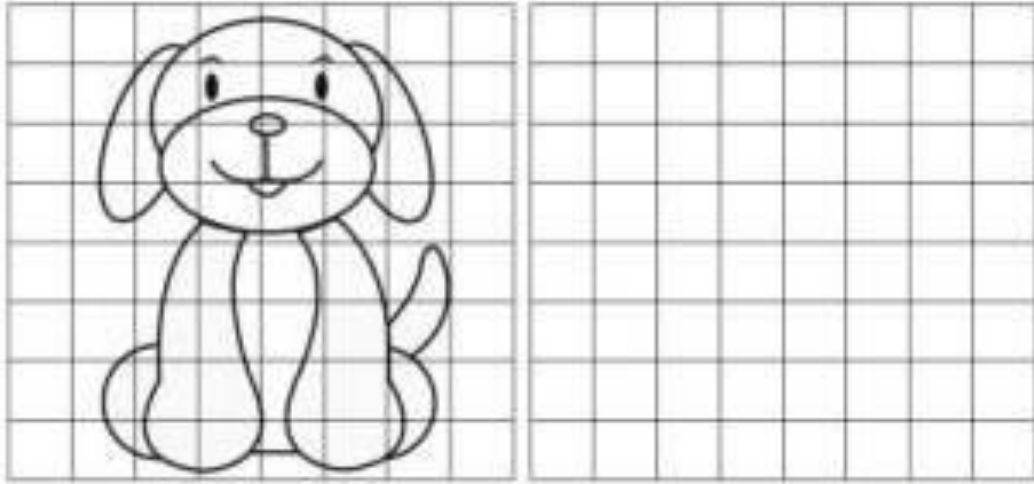


and he goes on to tell us that means looking closely always at **Jesus** – what He does, and how He does it:

and then, having watched Him, we go and do the same ourselves

Now try some copying!

Here's something to get you started.
Use the grid to help you **copy** the picture of the dog



Now try copying the picture below without a grid!



Spot the difference!

It can be difficult to get an *exact* copy, can't it!

Here are two pictures which look the same,
but the one on the right is not quite an exact copy



Can you find all **10 differences** between the two pictures?

Circle all the differences you can find.

Try colouring in the stained glass window at the church:
see how close you can get to making it an exact copy!



Fix your eyes on Jesus. What He does, you do. Ask Him to help you ..
“.. be imitators of God .. as dearly loved children”