Main Idea: Obey whatever He says...out of love.

**What is being an “imitator of God?” – 5:1**

1. **What it is not – 5:2**
   - “In my heart” but not “demonstrated by my life” – James 2:14
   - Believing in God & the Truth of the Bible – James 2:19

2. **What it is – 5:2**
   - Obey Christ **out of love**

**Why should I be an imitator of God? – 5:2**

- Because of the **Cross**
- Others are watching

**How can I put this into practice? – 5:2**

- Do whatever He says...
- Pursuing Him above all else

**What should I avoid?**

1. _______________ – 5:3
2. _______________ – 5:3
3. _______________ – 5:3
4. _______________ – 5:4
5. _______________ – 5:4
6. _______________ – 5:4

**Why abstain from these things?**

1. They are __________ in the life of a Christ-follower – 5:3 “as is proper for saints.”
2. They are not on the path of _______________ Christ – 5:3 “as is proper for saints.”
3. They don’t __________ in the life of a Christ-follower – 5:4 “which are out of place,”

**What should characterize my life?**

1. _______________ for what God has given and withheld – 5:3 “but instead let there be thanksgiving.”
2. Acceptance of _______________ vs. _______________ myths – 5:5-6

“For you may be sure of this, that everyone who is sexually immoral or impure, or who is covetous (that is, an idolater), has no inheritance in the kingdom of Christ and God. Let no one deceive you with empty words, for because of these things the wrath of God comes upon the sons of disobedience.”
Main Idea: Obey whatever He says...out of love.

*What is being an “imitator of God?” – 5:1*

- What it is not – 5:2
  - “In my heart” but not “demonstrated by my life” – James 2:14
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  *What it is – 5:2*
  - Obey Christ out of love

*Why should I be an imitator of God? – 5:2*

- Because of the Cross
- Others are watching

*How can I put this into practice? – 5:2*

- Do whatever He says...
- Pursuing Him above all else

*What should I avoid?*

- Sexual immorality – 5:3
- All impurity – 5:3
- Covetousness – 5:3
- Filthiness – 5:4
- Foolish words – 5:4
- Crude jokes – 5:4

*Why abstain from these things?*

- They are out of place in the life of a Christ-follower – 5:3 “as is proper for saints.”
- They are not on the path of following Christ – 5:3 “as is proper for saints.”
- They don’t fit in the life of a Christ-follower – 5:4 “which are out of place,”

*What should characterize my life?*

- Thanksgiving for what God has given and withheld – 5:3 “but instead let there be thanksgiving.”
- Acceptance of God’s Truth vs. “user-friendly” myths – 5:5-6

“For you may be sure of this, that everyone who is sexually immoral or impure, or who is covetous (that is, an idolater), has no inheritance in the kingdom of Christ and God. 6 Let no one deceive you with empty words, for because of these things the wrath of God comes upon the sons of disobedience.”