

# GOD'S BUMPER STICKERS

WHAT MIGHT THEY SAY?



**My Kids Are Given (Ephesians 5:1-2)**  
**God's Bumper Stickers sermon series**  
 By Pastor David Hillis, 09.08.19

**BIG IDEA:** We are *chosen* so that we can be blessed. We are *blessed* so that we can be broken. We are *broken* so that ultimately, we can be *given* and reflect God's incredible love to others.

**What does it mean as God's kids to be "given"?**

1. **God is a giver.**

(Ephesians 5:2b; Luke 6:38, 12:32; John 3:16)

- In the beginning God gave us life as humans.
- He gave us the perfect surroundings to live and relationship with Him.
- One of the most meaningful ways God has given significantly to us is by giving of *Himself* on the cross for us.

2. **God wants us to imitate Him.**

(Ephesians 5:1; Leviticus 19; Matthew 5:43-48; 1 Corinthians 11:1)

- God tell the Israelites to copy Him at least 14 times: "Be holy as I am holy."
- Jesus tells us to love our enemies and thereby act as children like your Father in Heaven.

3. **The best way we can imitate Him is by giving ourselves in love.**

(Ephesians 5:2a, JN 13:34, GW)

- Just like Christ who "gave himself up", we are also to give ourselves up to others.
- He is actually calling us to a fundamentally different posture, mimicking Christ.

**NEXT STEP:** What most holds you back from accepting and living into the identity to which God has given you, as His child? Is anything keeping you from embracing how you are chosen and blessed, broken yet given to love others?

#### **FOR MY PERSONAL TIME WITH GOD THIS WEEK:**

1. This week in part 4 of *God's Bumper Stickers*, we talked about how God values using the brokenness in our lives. Spend some time re-reading and meditating on [Ephesians 5:1-2](#) this week, perhaps in other versions of the Bible like [The Message](#).. In your own words, write out for yourself the essence of these commands.
2. The last part of [Ephesians 4](#) and the first part of [Ephesians 5](#) contain details of what it means to put on a new nature. How do the verses leading up to Ephesians 5:1-2 and the verses following it clarify what these verses say? Why does God want us to consider these things in light of verses 1-2?
3. Henri Nouwen wrote, "*True joy, happiness, and inner peace come from the giving of ourselves to others.*" Recall a time when you really gave of yourself to others. How did you feel afterward about the other person and your relationship? How did you feel about yourself? Did this in any way open you more fully to God? What has God taught you in recent months as you have loved by giving of your time, your talents, and/or your treasures to others?
4. God by His very nature is a giver. Look at these Scriptures and try to summarize with each how He gives: [Genesis 1:29-30](#); [Psalm 21:2, 29:11, 37:4, 84:11, 85:12](#); [Matthew 7:7-10](#); [John 3:16](#); [Romans 8:32, 15:5](#); [1 Corinthians 15:57](#); [James 1:5,17](#).
5. There are loads of places that speak about imitating our Heavenly Father. Look at a few of them and see what common themes you find: [Matthew 11:29, 16:24](#); [John 13:12-15,34](#); [Ephesians 4:32](#); [Philippians 2:3-8, 3:17, 4:9](#); [1 Thessalonians 1:2-7, 2:13-16](#); [1 Peter 1:16, 2:21](#); [1 John 2:3-6](#); [3 John 1:11](#).
6. How are you called to imitate God in your closest relationships? How would a posture of generosity, of self-giving love, transform the lives of those around you at home, work and play?

#### **ONLINE RESOURCES:**

- **What does it mean to be the Beloved?** Take a look at how videographer Jordan Lehman encapsulated it with his family and some words from a sermon Henri Nouwen gave in this video, [MY BELOVED](#). Do you consider yourself a prodigal of sorts, always falling short of God? If so, perhaps Eliot Rausch's video "[My Beloved Prodigal Son](#)" will touch you.
- **Pastor Dave mentioned a book which was part of the inspiration behind this new series.** It is Henri Nouwen's book [Life of the Beloved](#), available on Amazon in paper, digital and audio formats.