

YOLO (You Only Live Once); Ephesians 5:1-2

I. YOLO

- A. "You Only Live Once"
 - 1. A phrase used by a lot of our youth to encourage them to take risks
 - 2. It is also used to justify behavior that is unacceptable
 - 3. Tide pods, lighting yourself on fire, and many others
- B. You may also know this idea by the commercial, "what happens in Vegas stays in Vegas"
- C. We had this idea (way before it was popular) in the military, "what happens TDY stays TDY"
- D. It is basically a license to behave however you want to and not be responsible for your actions
 - 1. This behavior tore apart many families while I was in the military
 - 2. I sent many incidents to the commander for non judicial punishment and even to the Judge Advocate General for courts martial
- E. The problem is that the phrase, "you only live once" is totally false!

II. Imitators

- A. Ephesians 5:1-2 (ESV); ¹ Therefore be imitators of God, as beloved children. ² And walk in love, as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us, a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God.
- B. The verb, "be" in verse 1 is an imperative — meaning it is a command or request
- C. "Therefore" — what comes before
 - 1. Ephesians 4:32 (ESV); Be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, as God in Christ forgave you.
 - 2. There are a lot of YOLO behaviors listed in 4:25-31
 - a) Falshood (lying)
 - b) Sinning in anger (road rage)
 - c) Stealing
 - d) Corrupting speech
 - e) Bitterness, wrath, anger, slander, shouting
 - 3. There are also a lot of YOLO behaviors listed in 5:3-4
 - 4. Ephesians 5:3-4 (ESV); ³ But sexual immorality and all impurity or covetousness must not even be named among you, as is proper among saints. ⁴ Let there be no filthiness nor foolish talk nor crude joking, which are out of place, but instead let there be thanksgiving.
 - 5. These behaviors have "no inheritance in the kingdom of Christ and God" (verse 5)
- D. Imitate
 - 1. Ephesians 4:32 (ESV); Be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, as God in Christ forgave you.
 - a) Kind — morally good, benevolent
 - b) Tenderhearted — compassionate
 - c) Forgiving — pardon
 - 2. 1 Corinthians 10:31-11:1 (ESV); ³¹ So, whether you eat or drink, or whatever you do, do all to the glory of God. ³² Give no offense to Jews or to Greeks or to the church of God, ³³ just as I try to please everyone in everything I do, not seeking my own advantage, but that of many, that they may be saved. ¹ Be imitators of me, as I am of Christ.
 - a) Always, and in everything, give glory to God
 - b) Try your best no to offend anyone (the context is eating food offered to idols)
 - c) Look to help others — so that they may be saved
 - 3. 2 Thessalonians 3:7-9 (ESV); ⁷ For you yourselves know how you ought to imitate us, because we were not idle when we were with you, ⁸ nor did we eat anyone's bread without paying for it, but with toil and labor we worked night and day, that we

might not be a burden to any of you. ⁹ It was not because we do not have that right, but to give you in ourselves an example to imitate.

a) Idle — Of such as are not at their appointed posts or do not conform to established law or custom, hence acting with self-interest and not for the common good ¹

b) Pay what you owe — if you can't afford it, don't buy it

c) Toil and labor — exertion, hardship, burdensome activity

E. We are imitators of Christ, of God, of our shepherds' faith because, "you only live twice"

III. YOLT

A. Ephesians 5:15–17 (ESV); ¹⁵ Look carefully then how you walk, not as unwise but as wise, ¹⁶ making the best use of the time, because the days are evil. ¹⁷ Therefore do not be foolish, but understand what the will of the Lord is.

B. If we only live once, then maybe I would agree with YOLO

C. But there is a life after this one — a resurrection for us and as such we should live in the present thinking about the future

1. We spend way too much time living in the here and now

2. We should make all our decisions in the here and now based on our future resurrection

3. Eternity is a long time

4. James 4:13–15 (ESV); ¹³ Come now, you who say, "Today or tomorrow we will go into such and such a town and spend a year there and trade and make a profit"— ¹⁴ yet you do not know what tomorrow will bring. What is your life? For you are a mist that appears for a little time and then vanishes. ¹⁵ Instead you ought to say, "If the Lord wills, we will live and do this or that."

5. Even our labor here on this earth to take care of our family has its roots in our resurrection

6. Ephesians 4:28 (ESV); Let the thief no longer steal, but rather let him labor, doing honest work with his own hands, so that he may have something to share with anyone in need.

7. We work to provide not only for our family but to "share with anyone in need"

D. When this life is over we will either be caught up in the air with Jesus, or we will stand before the Father in judgment

E. "Look carefully then how you walk" has a direct link to "be imitators of God" in verse 1

1. Kind — morally good, benevolent

2. Tenderhearted — compassionate

3. Forgiving — pardon

4. Pay what you owe — if you can't afford it, don't buy it

5. Toil and labor — exertion, hardship, burdensome activity

6. These behaviors are where we should spend the majority of our time and effort

IV. Walk in Love

A. Read about God, and how he shows His love for us (the sacrifice of His Son)

B. Imitate God's character

C. Because You Only Live Twice!

¹ William Arndt et al., *A Greek-English Lexicon of the New Testament and Other Early Christian Literature* (Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 2000), 148.