

## **The Church and The Blessed Hope The Pleasing Walk of Brotherly Love I Thessalonians 4:9-12**

**Introduction** - Paul is encouraging us to walk in a way that is pleasing to God and that we abound more and more (4:1). So having exhorted us first to holiness (vv. 3-8), he now exhorts us to *harmony* (vv. 9-12), from what to avoid *sexual immorality* to what we are to cultivate *brotherly love*. From chastity to charity. From the cardinal advice of the heathen world, to the fundamental virtue of the Christian life. Love!

Paul already prayed for the believers in Thessalonica for these two areas (3:12-13). Two virtues should always distinguish the Christian *purity* and *love*.

What's the background for Paul's words in our texts? Why did Paul exhort them to "*Brotherly Love*?"

Because of this, Paul gave them four practical exhortations on how to live in light of the Lord's soon coming!

### **I. Love Each Other More, vv. 9-10**

If a Christian is growing in sanctification they are growing in love!

#### **1. The Kind of Love, vs. 9 -**

"Brotherly Love," it's *philadelphia*. Agape, philo, erious. In secular Greek it was used in relation to blood brothers and sisters, but in the N.T. it's applied to the "fraternity of faith."

It's the mark of the Christian.

John 13:34-35, "A new commandment."

#### **2. The Source of this love, vs. 9b**

How are we taught of God to love one another?

1. God's commandment!
2. God's example - John 3:16, God the Father has taught us to love one another by giving us his Son." God the Son has taught us to love one another by giving His life!
3. Here in our text we learn that God the Holy Spirit teaches us to love one another by giving us new life and a new nature and dwelling in us!

- Rom. 5:5 - “The love of God is poured out into our hearts by the Holy Spirit which is given unto us.”
- I John 4:7-8 - “Beloved, let us love one another: for love is of God; and every one that loveth is born of God, and knoweth God. He that loveth not knoweth not God; for God is love.”
- Gal. 5:22 - “But the fruit of the Spirit is love....”
- Eph. 5:18 - “Be filled...”

### **3. The Expression of Love, vs. 10a. Ask how?**

- By serving one another, Gal. 5:13
- By forgiving one another, Eph. 4:32
- By showing hospitality to one another, I Pet. 4:8-9
- By bearing one another’s burdens, Gal. 6:2
- By not judging one another, Rom. 14:13
- By not lying to one another, Col. 3:9

It’s seeking the highest good of the person love.

### **4. The Expansion of Love, vs. 10b**

“We beseech you brethren that ye increase more and more.” There’s always room for growth!

## **II. Keep Your Cool, vs. 11a. “*And that ye study to be quiet.*”**

“Study” Literally, “make it your ambition.”

“To be quiet,” literally, “to be at rest” - used of silence after speech, rest after labor, peace after war, so it’s a tranquility of mind.

Paul is saying calm down! Chill out! Their problem was a “spirit of restlessness” or “mental excitement.”

Why? Jesus is coming!

How about you? Do you need to calm down? Are you wound up?

List the things that get us stressed out.

Things we want, don't happen! Self ambition, brings unrest! But when Christ controls our ambition; when we willingly submit to His will, there is rest! Tranquility of mind comes when selfish ambition goes and one's whole desire is to let Christ be magnified. Matt. 6, "don't worry!"

### **III. Mind Your Own Business**, vs. 11b. "*And to do your own business.*"

The problem....meddlesomeness. They had become busybodies, II Thess. 3:11. "To do your own business" is literally "your own personal affairs."

It's good to be concerned for the needs of others! But don't neglect your own personal affairs!

Lesson, John 21:22, Peter about John!

Focus on God calling for you! Don't seek the limelight! Be content!

### **IV. Get to Work**, vs. 11c. "*And to work with your own hands as we commanded you.*"

The problem - "idleness," why? II Thess. 3:6-12.

To the Greeks - manual labor was regarded as degrading. It was viewed with contempt, for slaves only.

The Jews - upheld the dignity of all forms of labor....even Jewish boys....Paul made tents...

For Christians: Col. 3:17, "*Whatever you do in word or deed do all in the name of the Lord Jesus giving thanks to God and the Father by Him.*"

Col. 3:22-24, "*Servants, obey in all things your masters according to the flesh; not with eyeservice, as menpleasers; but in singleness of heart, fearing God: And whatsoever ye do, do it heartily, as to the Lord, and not unto men; Knowing that of the Lord ye shall receive the reward of the inheritance: for ye serve the Lord Christ.*"

**Two Reasons to:**

- Love each other more.
- To keep your cool.
- Mind your own business.
- Get to work!

**1. To be a good witness to the unbelievers, vs. 12a**

**2. To maintain a dignified independence, vs. 12b.**

Self-support where possible is a moral duty!

It's not loving to sponge off of others!

