

Brotherly Love

1 Thessalonians 4:9-12

Main Idea: Love Your Church Family by Working Your Hands, Not Your Mouth

"but concerning brotherly love." (v. 9)

1.) A Commendation of Their Love for One Another

"But concerning brotherly love you have no need that I should write to you" (v. 9)

A.) They Had Been Taught by God

"for you yourselves are taught by God to love one another." (v. 9)

"All your children shall be taught by the Lord..." Isaiah 54:13

*"Now it shall come to pass in the latter days That the mountain of the Lord's house Shall be established on the top of the mountains, And shall be exalted above the hills; And all nations shall flow to it. **3** Many people shall come and say, 'Come, and let us go up to the mountain of the Lord, To the house of the God of Jacob; He will teach us His ways, And we shall walk in His paths.'" (Isaiah 2:2-3)*

*"**44** No one can come to Me unless the Father who sent Me draws him; and I will raise him up at the last day. **45** It is written in the prophets, 'And they shall all be taught by God.' Therefore everyone who has heard and learned from the Father comes to Me." (John 6:44-45)*

B.) They Were Demonstrating Brotherly Love Towards All Believers

"and indeed you do so toward all the brethren who are in all Macedonia..." (v. 10)

2.) A Broad Exhortation to Increase in Love

"But we urge you, brethren, that you increase more and more" (v. 10)

A.) Live Quietly and Mind Your Own Business

"that you also aspire to lead a quiet life, to mind your own business" (v. 11)

"vulgar man, who spends his days meddling, running around in public, in theaters, tribunals, councils, and assemblies, meetings and consultations of all sorts; he prattles on without moderation, fruitless, to no end; he confuses and stirs up everything, mingling truth with falsehood, the spoken with the unspoken, the private with the public, the sacred with the profane, the serious with the ridiculous, not having learning to remain quiet [same word Paul uses], which is the ideal when the situation calls for it; and he pricks up his ears in an excess of bustling busyness." –Philo

"to maintain a low profile in the public arena, keep to themselves as much as possible, and practice philadelphia within the church, thereby minimizing the danger of arousing further opposition to the Christian movement." –Jeffrey Weima

B.) Keep Yourself Busy, Provide for Yourself, and Don't Be a Burden

"and to work with your own hands." (v. 11)

"For you remember, brothers, our labor and toil: we worked night and day, that we might not be a burden to any of you..." (1 Thessalonians 2:9)

*"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....If anyone is not willing to work, let him not eat"" (2 Thessalonians 3:7-8, 10)*

"Paul calls on his readers to be self-supporting and contributing members of the church, the very thing that he himself had done during his mission-founding work in their midst" –Jeffrey Weima

3.) Two Reasons for Obeying These Exhortations

"that you may walk properly toward those who are outside, and that you may lack nothing" (v. 12)

A.) Win the Respect of Non-Christians

*"**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 Cor 10:32-33)*

*"Remind them to be submissive to rulers and authorities, to be obedient, to be ready for every good work, **2** to speak evil of no one, to avoid quarreling, to be gentle, and to show perfect courtesy toward all people." (Titus 3:1-2)*

B.) Be Dependent on No One

*"**15** Jesus, aware of this, withdrew from there. And many followed him, and he healed them all **16** and ordered them not to make him known. **17** This was to fulfill what was spoken by the prophet Isaiah: **18** "Behold, my servant whom I have chosen, my beloved with whom my soul is well pleased. I will put my Spirit upon him, and he will proclaim justice to the Gentiles. **19** He will not quarrel or cry aloud, nor will anyone hear his voice in the streets; **20** a bruised reed he will not break, and a smoldering wick he will not quench, until he brings justice to victory; **21** and in his name the Gentiles will hope." (Matthew 12:15-21)*