

Sermon Discussion Guide

The People of Brotherly Love

1 Thessalonians 4:9-12

The teacher of brotherly love (9-10a)

Isa 2:3; 54:13; Jer 31:33-34; Jn 13:34-35; 1 Cor 2:13; Gal 5:22;
Rom 5:5; see also Mic 4:1-4; Jn 6:43-47; 1 Jn 2:20, 27;
Jn 15:9-14, 17

- What are ways you have been loved by other believers?
- What is significant about the fact that we have been taught by God to love one another?
- What are some ways that Jesus taught and showed us how to love one another?
- What are ways that God is teaching us to love each other?

The life of brotherly love (10b-11)

2 Thess 3:6-13; 1 Tim 2:2; 1 Pet 4:15

- How would you summarize Paul's commands of a life of love?
- What are ways we can be tempted not to "live quietly" and to "mind our own affairs"?
- How can working with our hands be a way to love others?
- How is Paul's call to work with our hands and mind our own affairs comforting? Challenging?

The purpose of brotherly love (12)

1 Cor 10:32-33; Col 4:5; 1 Tim 3:7; Titus 3:1-2; 1 Pet 2:12;
Eph 4:28; 1 Tim 5:3-8

- How does showing true, brotherly love help our witness to those who are not Christians?
- How can it be a good thing to be dependent upon no one? How can this be taken to a negative extreme?
- How should we think about and care for those among us who cannot work?

Conclusion

- In what ways do these commands to brotherly love reflect God's love for us?