

BOOK OF 1 THESSALONIANS  
OUR LIFE WITH OTHERS  
1 THESSALONIANS 4:9-12

**Introduction**

In the first part of this chapter we've already seen how we should live a life pleasing to God. We've also seen that it is accomplished through both our **sanctification** and **our pursuing God's desires, not our fleshly desires.**

(Which really is the same thing Paul was saying to the Galatian Church in *Galatians 5:16 This I say then, Walk in the Spirit, and ye shall not fulfil the lust of the flesh.*)

We'll see tonight how Paul goes further in this matter of our living for God as it relates to our relationship with our brothers and sisters in Christ and how we conduct ourselves before them and before lost world!

**I. OUR LIFE CONCERNING THE BRETHREN!—"LOVE ONE ANOTHER!" (4:9-10)**

**A. Our Love For One Another Should Be A "No Brainer!"**

**1. God Himself Teaches Us To Love One Another!**

*1 John 3:11 For this is the message that ye heard from the beginning, that we should love one another.*

**Remember what Jesus said were the top two commandments?**

*Matthew 22:37-39 37 Jesus said unto him, Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind. 38 This is the first and great commandment. 39 And the second is like unto it, Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself.*

**Love is the very nature of God! 1 John 4:7-16**

If love is **God's nature** and we have **His** Divine nature living within, then it is a part of **our** new nature!

The question for us is this: Which nature are we going to let shine through? The old Adamic nature that is still with us? (Flesh) or The new Divine nature? (Spirit)

BOOK OF 1 THESSALONIANS  
OUR LIFE WITH OTHERS  
1 THESSALONIANS 4:9-12

**2. Jesus Taught His Disciples To Love One Another!**

*1 John 3:23 And this is his commandment, That we should believe on the name of his Son Jesus Christ, and love one another, as he gave us commandment.*

*John 13:34-35 34 A new commandment I give unto you, That ye love one another; as I have loved you, that ye also love one another. 35 By this shall all men know that ye are my disciples, if ye have love one to another.*

**(Cf. John 15:12-14, 17)**

**3. So, What Is This "Brotherly Love?"**

*philadelphia = fraternal affection, fondness.*

**It is a love that comes from RELATIONSHIP!**

**Take the example of the early Church in Jerusalem:**

*Acts 4:32 And the multitude of them that believed were of one heart and of one soul: neither said any of them that ought of the things which he possessed was his own; but they had all things common.*

**Brotherly Love Is The Biblical Love:**

a. That binds us together as a spiritual family!

b. That binds us in an unbreakable union!  
(We're family whether we like it or not!)

**Brotherly Love Is The Biblical Love:**

c. That holds us deeply within each other's heart!

d. That knows deep affection for each other!

e. That causes us to want to nourish and nurture each other to be the best we can be!

**BOOK OF 1 THESSALONIANS**  
**OUR LIFE WITH OTHERS**  
**1 THESSALONIANS 4:9-12**

- f. That shows concern and looks after the welfare of each other!  
*1 Corinthians 12:25-26 25 That there should be no schism in the body; but that the members should have the same care one for another. 26 And whether one member suffer, all the members suffer with it; or one member be honoured, all the members rejoice with it.*
- g. That joins hands with each other in a common purpose—God’s Purpose!

**B. The Bible Is Clear On This Matter!—We, As Brethren, Are To Show Great Love To Those Who Are Brethren!**

*Romans 12:9-10 9 Let love be without dissimulation. Abhor that which is evil; cleave to that which is good. 10 Be kindly affectioned one to another with brotherly love; in honour preferring one another;*

*Ephesians 5:1-2 1 Be ye therefore followers of God, as dear children; 2 And walk in love, as Christ also hath loved us, and hath given himself for us an offering and a sacrifice to God for a sweetsmelling savour.*

*1 Peter 3:8 Finally, be ye all of one mind, having compassion one of another, love as brethren, be pitiful, be courteous:*

1. Brotherly love is one of the functions of **believers as individuals**, and a **Church as an organism, the body of Christ!**
2. There is to be a **universal individual application** of brotherly love...There is also to be a **universal corporate application** of brotherly love!

**BOOK OF 1 THESSALONIANS**  
**OUR LIFE WITH OTHERS**  
**1 THESSALONIANS 4:9-12**

3. **Whether we are talking about individual believers or the Church – love is to be the identifying mark!**
4. Oh, and don’t get the idea that we are to forget about Church discipline because we are to love the brethren! Church discipline, when done right, is a form of love!

**C. Loving The Brethren Is An Area That We Need To Continually Grow In!**

This Church had done it toward all the brethren that were in Macedonia, yet Paul exhorted them to increase more and more!

We must consciously develop a habit of loving the brethren and exhibiting that love toward them!

(Love is, after all, an action word! It is not just something have it is something you DO!) **Vs 10 “And indeed ye do it...”**

1. One of the benefits of **spiritual growth** is the **development** of Biblical habits and qualities!  
**(2 Peter 1:3-9)**
2. A second benefit is **consistency** regarding those developing habits and qualities!
3. A third benefit is **persistence** regarding those developing habits and qualities!  
*Hebrews 13:1 Let brotherly love continue.*

*OUR LIFE CONCERNING THE BRETHREN!—“LOVE ONE ANOTHER!”*

**II. OUR LIFE CONCERNING OURSELVES! (4:10-11)**

**A. Love One Another!**

It is not only good for our brethren, but it is good for us!  
*1 John 2:10 He that loveth his brother abideth in the light, and there is none occasion of stumbling in him.*

**BOOK OF 1 THESSALONIANS**  
**OUR LIFE WITH OTHERS**  
**1 THESSALONIANS 4:9-12**

*1 John 3:14 We know that we have passed from death unto life, because we love the brethren...*

**B. Study To Be Quiet!**

*Study = To be eager or earnest to do something!*  
*(Also translated = labour , strive)*

*Quiet = to keep still, that is, refrain from meddlesomeness or speech! (Also translated = cease, hold peace, rest)*

Think of it in terms of **being settled, low key, undisturbed; less frantic... (i.e. Don't get so bent out of shape over stuff!)**

**1. Settled has a sense of comfort! (2 Corinthians 1:3)**

God is the source of our comfort.

**And He has given to us the blessed COMFORTER!**

*John 14:26-27 26 But the Comforter, which is the Holy Ghost, whom the Father will send in my name, he shall teach you all things, and bring all things to your remembrance, whatsoever I have said unto you.*

*27 Peace I leave with you, my peace I give unto you: not as the world giveth, give I unto you. Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid.*

**2. Comfort comes from security!**

Our security comes from being in Christ!

*Romans 8:31 What shall we then say to these things? If God be for us, who can be against us?*

*Romans 8:35 Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword?*

**3. Comfort comes from acceptance! (by God)**

*Ephesians 1:6 To the praise of the glory of his grace, wherein he hath made us accepted in the beloved.*

**BOOK OF 1 THESSALONIANS**  
**OUR LIFE WITH OTHERS**  
**1 THESSALONIANS 4:9-12**

*7 In whom we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of his grace;*

**4. Comfort comes from familiarity!**

The more you come to know the LORD and His nature, the more you will experience His comfort! It has a calming affect on our lives as believers!

*2 Peter 3:18 But grow in grace, and in the knowledge of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. To him be glory both now and for ever. Amen.*

This is all part of our journey in Christ. We will always be in a state of flux while we are here! Always getting more comfortable in Him! Always getting more understanding of how secure we are in Him! Always coming to a greater understanding of what being accepted in Christ means! Always becoming more familiar with the LORD as we experience His presence more and more as we grow in Him!

**C. Do Your Own Business!**

It is amazing to see how much we can get involved in the affairs of others when we can't even keep our own affairs straight!

*Do = to "practice", that is, to perform repeatedly or habitually; to execute, to accomplish.*

*Own business = pertaining to self, that is, one's own!*

i.e. Keep yourself busy doing what God has called you to do or wants you to do with your life! You won't have time to become a busybody and keep things stirred up!

**BOOK OF 1 THESSALONIANS**  
**OUR LIFE WITH OTHERS**  
**1 THESSALONIANS 4:9-12**

Paul cautions this church later in his second letter to them:  
*2 Thessalonians 3:11 For we hear that there are some which walk among you disorderly, working not at all, but are busybodies.*

Now don't misunderstand: Paul is not telling the Church to avoid fellowship and contact with each other, but rather for them not to become a burden to each other by sticking their nose in where it doesn't belong!

*1 Peter 4:10-11 10 As every man hath received the gift, even so minister the same one to another, as good stewards of the manifold grace of God. 11 If any man speak, let him speak as the oracles of God; if any man minister, let him do it as of the ability which God giveth: that God in all things may be glorified through Jesus Christ, to whom be praise and dominion for ever and ever. Amen.*

*1 Peter 4:15 But let none of you suffer as a murderer, or as a thief, or as an evildoer, or as a busybody in other men's matters.*

**D. Work With Your Own Hands!**

God wants us to be responsible in all areas of our lives!

The Greek people looked down on manual labor – to them it was suited for slaves! But, Paul here dignifies working with our hands here! We know he worked with his own hands as a tent maker! Even though he admitted that he didn't have to! He didn't want to be a burden to the Churches or others! He didn't want others to think he was just in the ministry for the money!

Working reveals the desire to provide for our own needs and to be able to help with the needs of others!

**BOOK OF 1 THESSALONIANS**  
**OUR LIFE WITH OTHERS**  
**1 THESSALONIANS 4:9-12**

It also allows others to respond to our needs with joy instead of apprehension! Nobody likes a freeloader!

*OUR LIFE CONCERNING THE BRETHREN!—"LOVE ONE ANOTHER!" ...OUR LIFE CONCERNING OURSELVES!*

**III. OUR LIFE CONCERNING A LOST WORLD! (4:12)**

When we love the brethren it speaks to the world that we follow Jesus!

When we are settled in our Christian walk:

Things don't get us so bent out of shape, and

We are settled in our security in Christ (We have peace in the midst of troubles and trials), and

We are settled in our acceptance before God (our confidence being in Christ, and not ourselves, and

We are increasing in our confidence in the LORD as we grow in Him...

Wow, do you think that speaks to a world that is experiencing unsettledness? You think anybody would like to get in on that!

Personal responsibility and walking honestly is a sign of spiritual maturity!

*Walking honestly* means walking or living what we believe!

You say you are a Christian, walk as a Christian before an unbelieving world! The form of our life should win the respect of those outside the Church! Respect provides opportunities to share Christ!

**IV. AND THE BENEFIT OF ALL OF THIS?—"THAT YE MAY HAVE LACK OF NOTHING!"**

Respect of your God and Saviour!

Respect of your Brethren!

Respect of yourself!

Respect before the World!