

Lifestyle Holiness

Now, let me say a word about the fear of God as a motivator for our holiness...

Hebrews 10:26-31 - *if you go on sinning willfully after receiving a knowledge of the truth, there no longer remains a sacrifice for sins.*

These are not believers who have lost their salvation, but unbelievers who are wrongly claiming salvation for themselves.

We are not saved by our holiness...
nor are we secured by our holiness...
but we can be "assured" by our holiness – as we true changes happening in our life. For if there is no characteristic growth in holiness, there is good reason to question your own salvation.

1) Sexual Holiness

2) Love for Brothers – v. 9-10

Philadelphia...

Let me just give you a sampling...

a) Hospitality – Heb 13:1-2

- b) Meeting needs (financial and otherwise) – 2 Cor 8:4 1 John 3:16-18
- c) Forgiving – 1 Pet 4:8, Matt 18:21-35
- d) Rebuke a brother in sin – Luke 17:3
- e) Keeping the Law – Rom 13:10
- f) Using our Freedom to serve others – Gal 5:13
- g) Not leading a brother to violate their conscience by flaunting our freedoms – 1 Cor 8
- h) Watching out for "little ones" – Matt 18:6 – Jesus says it is better not to live than not to love.
- i) Even simple affectionate greetings – "kiss of love"

Romans 13:8 – *Owe nothing to anyone, EXCEPT to love one another...*

Where does the energy for such love come from??

Rom 5:5 – *the love of God has been poured out within our hearts through the Holy Spirit whom He has given us.*

1 John 4:19 – *We love, because God first loved us.*

We are receivers, and then responders...
We are receivers, and then reflectors...
We are receivers, and then re-gifters...

3) Live Responsibly – v. 11-12

a) Lead a quiet life

“Quiet” should characterize our general mode of life and heart – we are have a sense of peace and rest and settledness about us. We are not given toward fanatical ideas or restless action.

b) Attend to your own business

Not specifically referring to our vocation, but rather simply to our own matters, rather than involving ourselves in other’s affairs.

Don’t be meddlesome.

c) Work with your hands

“with your hands” was a common ancient euphemism for using your own power / strength.

So, Paul means – “do your own part – don’t be idle, lazy, sponging off of others when you could be doing work to provide for yourself or the common good.

And Why?

Paul gives two reasons in v. 12...

- to behave properly toward outsiders
- and not be in any need

But ultimately we do this because we are growing more and more to be like Jesus – who said, “*The Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve...*”

Praxis

1. In our culture, what factors have caused frenzy and busy to replace quiet and duty?
2. Review 1 Corinthians 13 descriptors of love. What are the opposites of each quality? Consider how each opposite relates to hate or harm of others.
3. If the Thessalonians were already practicing love very well, why does Paul urge them to “excel still more?” cf. Rom 13:8 - consider the practical implications...
4. What are the harms in occupying yourself in other’s affairs? What are ways / relationships in which people typically do this?
5. 1 Thessalonians 4:12 gives two reasons for leading a responsible life. Why is our walk before outsiders important?