

Let the Love of God Fuel Your Love for One Another

1 Thess. 4:9-12 -- February 14, 2021 -- Pastor Adam Hall

Introduction and Review

What is love?

Four Greek words that are used for “love”:

- 1) storge: _____
- 2) eros: _____
- 3) philia _____
- 4) agape _____

Two very important truths already talked about from 1 Thessalonians!

- 1) by the grace of God this church was called by God and so they experienced the calling of God and the love of God which enabled them to love others inside and outside the church! Us too!
- 2) We need to keep prayer a priority in our lives and in our church in order to grow in love

1 Thessalonians 4:9-12 ESV

⁹ Now concerning brotherly love you have no need for anyone to write to you, for you yourselves have been taught by God to love one another, ¹⁰ for that indeed is what you are doing to all the brothers throughout Macedonia. But we urge you, brothers, to do this more and more, ¹¹ and to aspire to live quietly, and to mind your own affairs, and to work with your hands, as we instructed you, ¹² so that you may walk properly before outsiders and be dependent on no one.

1) (4:9-10) Excel in Love

(4:9) Now concerning brotherly love you have no need for anyone to write to you,

1 Corinthians 7:1 Now concerning the matters about which you wrote:

- it could be that Paul is changing from the negative command to “avoid sexual immorality” to the positive to “love one another” with a brotherly love.

- Philadelphia: “philia” and “adelphia”: _____

- but this congregation was already loving each other!

1 Thessalonians 1:3 remembering before our God and Father your work of faith and labor of love and steadfastness of hope in our Lord Jesus Christ.

1 Thessalonians 3:6 But now that Timothy has come to us from you, and has brought us the good news of your faith and love and reported that you always remember us kindly and long to see us, as we long to see you—

(4:9) for you yourselves have been taught by God to love one another,

- Paul does not need to teach them because: “(4:9) for you yourselves have been taught by God to love one another,” but when/how were they taught?

a) By the Law of God

Leviticus 19:18 You shall not take vengeance or bear a grudge against the sons of your own people, but you shall love your neighbor as yourself: I am the LORD.

- b) By the example and teaching of the Lord Jesus Christ
John 13:34 A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another: just as I have loved you, you also are to love one another.
- c) By the Holy Spirit
Galatians 5:22-23 But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, 23 gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law.

(4:10) for that indeed is what you are doing to all the brothers throughout Macedonia.

- this congregation was already loving fellow believers that were in their general area

- isn't this the power of the Lord Jesus and the Holy Spirit, we are changed and therefore we lived changed lives?

But we urge you, brothers, to do this more and more,

- but Paul puts a BUT here

2) (4:11) Excel in Work

(4:11) and to aspire to live quietly, and to mind your own affairs, and to work with your hands, as we instructed you,

- these three commands relate to loving one another

i) live quietly

ii) mind your own affairs (avoid being a busy body)

2 Thessalonians 3:6-12 Now we command you, brothers, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that you keep away from any brother who is walking in idleness and not in accord with the tradition that you received from us. ⁷ 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. ⁹ It was not because we do not have that right, but to give you in ourselves an example to imitate. ¹⁰ For even when we were with you, we would give you this command: If anyone is not willing to work, let him not eat. ¹¹ For we hear that some among you walk in idleness, not busy at work, but busybodies. ¹² Now such persons we command and encourage in the Lord Jesus Christ to do their work quietly and to earn their own living.

iii) work with your hands (don't be a burden to others)

3) (4:12) Excel in Example

(4:12) so that you may walk properly before outsiders and be dependent on no one.

- people are watching us

- more instruction from Paul in his letter to the Colossians...

Colossians 4:2-5 Continue steadfastly in prayer, being watchful in it with thanksgiving. 3 At the same time, pray also for us, that God may open to us a door for the word, to declare the mystery of Christ, on account of which I am in prison-- 4 that I may make it clear, which is how I ought to speak. 5 Walk in wisdom toward outsiders, making the best use of the time.

Application

1) Let The Love Of Christ Be At The Forefront!

- do you see the love of God and its benefits?

Romans 5:8 but God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.

Romans 5:10 For if while we were enemies we were reconciled to God by the death of his Son, much more, now that we are reconciled, shall we be saved by his life.

- if you have not experienced the love of God read John 10 and John 15 and see the love of Jesus Christ and turn from you sin and come to Jesus Christ and find the love of God and real life!

John 10:11 I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep.

John 15:13 Greater love has no one than this, that someone lay down his life for his friends.

2) Let Us Grow In Love

- Four areas that we can consider as we grow in love for each other

i) Let us bear each other's burdens

Galatians 6:2 Bear one another's burdens, and so fulfill the law of Christ.

- people are bearing serious burdens now
- depression, frustration, loss of jobs, and a million other things
- let us be a church that seeks to do this for each other

ii) Let us show hospitality

1 Peter 4:9 Show hospitality to one another without grumbling.

- I know that not everyone might be comfortable coming to your house but there are creative ways to do this

iii) Encourage fellow believers

1 Thessalonians 5:11 Therefore encourage one another and build one another up, just as you are doing.

- how many people need to be built up right now
- let us use our words for building up and not tearing down

iv) Forgive one another

Colossians 3:13 bearing with one another and, if one has a complaint against another, forgiving each other; as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive.

- how many church disagreements and splits have been because of bitterness and a lack of love
- likely more than theological!

- let us be a church that excels in love as we are fueled by the love of Christ that he has given to us!

3) Let Us Be Godly Examples

- we are called to be examples to those around us so let us live lives that show the greatness and love of Jesus Christ

- Paul speaks of similar command in Titus 2

Titus 2:10 not pilfering (stealing), but showing all good faith, so that in everything they may adorn the doctrine of God our Savior.

- let us be fueled by the love of Christ to show love to those outside the church for the glory of Christ!

Prepare for next Sunday: 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18
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