



1 Thessalonians 4:9-12

5 Questions to ask ourselves as we consider talking about anybody who isn't present:

1. Am I motivated by love for the person we are talking about or "sharing prayer requests" about?
2. Are you talking to God about this person as much as you're talking to your friends?
3. Is your conversation with another about this other person intended to prepare you for a meaningful conversation with the person?
4. If you are processing with someone on how to deal wisely with a specific person in your life, are you doing your best to keep the person's identity secret except when necessary?
5. Do you enjoy sharing this information with your friends?

Getting Started

What is a favorite hobby or activity of yours?

Discussion

What stood out to you from the sermon this weekend?

Paul exhorts the Thessalonians to love one another more and more (vs. 9-10). Why is loving other Christians so important? How have you experienced love from fellow believers and what difference did it make in your life?

Christianity is meant to be lived in the ordinary, not just the extraordinary. Why is this necessary for us to grasp? What happens when we reverse this and live for the extraordinary vs. the ordinary?

Paul mentions 3 very ordinary ways we live to please God (vs. 11-12). The first is leading a quiet life. What does that look like and why is it necessary? The second is minding our own business. What is the opposite of this? What happens when we obey this instruction? The third is working with our hands. Why do you think Paul singles this out as a means for pleasing God?

How does living for these ordinary things win the approval of outsiders?

Prayer

Share some of the ordinary things in life you are thankful to God for providing.

Spend time praising God for how He abundantly provides for you in the ordinary day to day things of life.

As you go

How do you feel about living for the ordinary vs. the extraordinary? Have you been able to connect with God in the mundane or do you feel you need a heightened spiritual or emotional experience to connect with God? Ask God to help you see Him in the ordinary this week.

