

In past weeks we have discussed the importance of sanctification and growth in Christ.

Last week we spoke about the importance of fleeing sexual immorality of all kinds. That sexual immorality corrupts the heart and mind and is a self-segregator. It isolates and distances one's soul from God and from the fellowship of believers.

As Christians we are called to live a life of sanctification, self-discipline, and growth.

These things are achieved in prayer, fasting, and study. It is amazing how many people who call themselves Christians do not take the time to read their bible or study.

(The Spoon)



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The Apostle continues in the letter by reminding the Thessalonians of the importance of Brotherly love. To remember that religious

obligations are not all internal but also outward in word and deed. This is so true because knowledge can puff a person up but it is love that edifies. While it is important to pray, read, and live in obedience, yet if you live without love and concern for one another and supporting one another, your faith is vain. We are commanded to love one another. The Apostle writes...

1 Thessalonians 4:9-12

(9) But concerning brotherly love you have no need that I should write to you, for you yourselves are taught by God to love one another; (10) and indeed you do so toward all the brethren who are in all Macedonia. But we urge you, brethren, that you increase more and more;

Let's take a look at where our Lord teaches us such.

John 13:34-35 A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another; as I have loved you, that you also love one another. (35) By this **all will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another.**"

John 15:12-17 This is My commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you. (13) Greater love has no one than this, than to lay down one's life for his friends. (14) You are My friends if you do whatever I command you. .... (17) These things I command you, that you love one another.

1 John 3:11-22 For this is the message that you heard from the beginning, that we should love one another, (12) not as Cain who was of the wicked one and murdered his brother. And why did he murder him? Because his works were evil and his brother's righteous.

(13) Do not marvel, my brethren, if the world hates you. (14) We know that we have passed from death to life, because we love the brethren.

He who does not love his brother abides in death. (15) Whoever hates his brother is a murderer, and you know that no murderer has eternal life abiding in him. (16) By this we know love, because He laid down His life for us. And we also ought to lay down our lives for the brethren.



## LOVE IS ACTION

(17) But whoever has this world's goods, and sees his brother in need, and shuts up his heart from him, how does the love of God abide in him? ... (James 2:15-16... If a brother or sister be naked, and destitute of daily food, (16) And one of you say unto them, Depart in peace, be ye warmed and filled; notwithstanding ye give them not those things which are needful to the body; **what doth it profit?**)

(18) My little children, let us not love in word or in tongue, but in deed and in truth.



God calls us to have love for the brethren. It is of course not a blank check love to all. We are

called not to love the world, the wicked who in knowledge rebel against God, or those who continually live in disobedience rejecting the teachings of Christ in their life. The love we show these type of people is found in presenting them the gospel and call to repentance.

1 John 2:15-17 Do not love the world or the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him. (16) For all that is in the world—the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life—is not of the Father but is of the world. (17) And the world is passing away, and the lust of it; but he who does the will of God abides forever.

James 4:4-5 Adulterers and adulteresses! Do you not know that friendship with the world is enmity with God? Whoever therefore **wants to be a friend** of the world makes himself an enemy of God. (5) Or do you think that the Scripture says in vain, "The Spirit who dwells in us yearns jealously"?

This goes being on worldly concepts and ideas...

2 Corinthians 6:14-18 Do not be unequally yoked together with unbelievers. For what

fellowship has righteousness with lawlessness?  
And what communion has light with darkness?  
(15) And what accord has Christ with Belial?  
Or what part has a believer with an unbeliever?

(16) And what agreement has the temple of God with idols? For you are the temple of the living God. As God has said: "I WILL DWELL IN THEM AND WALK AMONG THEM. I WILL BE THEIR GOD, AND THEY SHALL BE MY PEOPLE." (17) Therefore "COME OUT FROM AMONG THEM AND BE SEPARATE, SAYS THE LORD. DO NOT TOUCH WHAT IS UNCLEAN, AND I WILL RECEIVE YOU." (18) "I WILL BE A FATHER TO YOU, AND YOU SHALL BE MY SONS AND DAUGHTERS, SAYS THE LORD ALMIGHTY."

All friendship or communion with the world or people who are not of God should be rooted in preaching the Gospel and winning them for Jesus Christ. It should not be for sitting down drinking a beer and watching the game, just to satisfy your sinful lusts and fleshly desires. We are Christians, servants of the God of Abraham,

Isaac, and Jacob. We are Holy and righteous through His Son.

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1 Thessalonians 4: (11) that you also aspire to lead a quiet life, to mind your own business, and to work with your own hands, as we commanded you,

A) Lead a quiet life to mind your own business.

There is nothing like nosy people and gossip.



There are several classifications of these people.

1. Those who get into other people's business.

“What is going on...What are you they doing...What is happening.”

what is going on



2. Those who take up other people's offences.

“I cannot believe they did that to them. I am so angry they said that to them.”



3. Those who make everything an offence.

“I am offended he did not shake my hand. I am offended that they said it that way. I am offended that they looked at me that way.”



Here is what we are told about people who do not lead a quiet life and mind their own business but are gossips...

James 1:26 If any man among you seem to be religious, and bridleth not his tongue, but



deceiveth his own heart, this man's religion is vain.

Proverbs 11:13 A talebearer revealeth secrets: but he that is of a faithful spirit concealeth the matter.

Proverbs 16:28 A froward man soweth strife: and a whisperer separateth chief friends.

There are hundreds of verses on gossip and backbiting that would keep us hear for hour. In general, the verses tell us the same stroy. Those who gossip have an evil heart, they are dividers and sowers of strife, and are not of God.

It is so easy to find ourselves wanting to tell a matter or something we know. Yet, it takes a lot of control and understanding to the dangers in doing so.

So, what should we pray...

Psalms 141:3 Set a watch, O LORD, before my mouth; keep the door of my lips.



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We conclude in verse 12

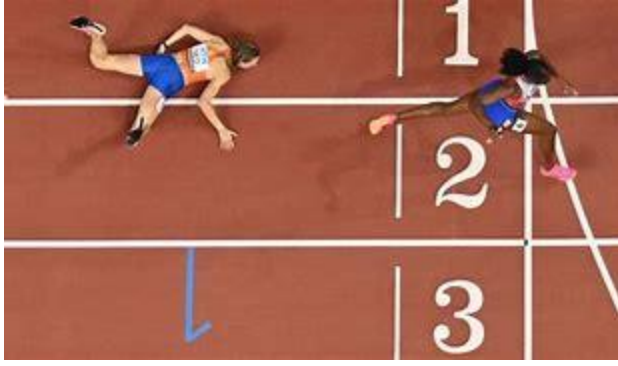
(12) that you may walk properly toward those who are outside,

A) From loving one another, to leading a quiet life, to minding our own business are all rooted to walking properly for our witness.

B) Our main goal as Christians is to point everyone to Christ. We do this by following the examples given to us above.

(12b) and that you may lack nothing.

The meaning is that you may fall short. It is the picture of a person who is so engrossed in believing he is winning with his Number 1 finger up that he ends up falling, or getting passed because he decided to slow down and enjoy the win before he actually crossed over.



Let us finish the race with integrity by loving and keeping our mouth shut.