



**“Opening Day of the School of Love”  
1 Thessalonians 4:9-10**

**Introduction:** Regarding a church-wide crisis of love...

1 Thessalonians 4:9-10 “Now as to the love of the brethren, you have no need for anyone to write to you, for you yourselves are taught by God to love one another; for indeed you do practice it toward all the brethren who are in all Macedonia. But we urge you, brethren, to excel still more...”

**I. The Familiar Lesson**

1 Thessalonians 4:9 “Now as to the love of the brethren, you have no need for anyone to write to you...”

Romans 12:10 “Be devoted to one another in brotherly love (Greek: *philadelphia*)...”

**II. The Divine Instructor**

1 Thessalonians 4:9 “...for you yourselves are taught by God to love one another...”

theos (God) + didaktoi (taught) = “God-taught”

**1. We have been taught how to love by God the Father**

John 3:16 “For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish, but have eternal life.”

**The Love Lesson from God the Father: “Love involves giving!”**

**2. We have been taught how to love by God the Son**

John 13:34 “A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another, even as I have loved you, that you also love one another.”

**The Love Lesson from God the Son: “Love involves self-sacrificial service!”**

**3. We have been taught how to love by God the Holy Spirit**

Roman 5:5 “...the love of God has been poured out within our hearts through the Holy Spirit who was given to us.”

**The Love Lesson from God, the Holy Spirit: “Love is the fruit of obedience!”**

**4. We have been taught how to love by God’s Word**

• **The Love Book: The Bible**

• **The Love Letter: 1 John**

1 John 4:7-12 “Beloved, let us love one another, for love is from God; and everyone who loves is born of God and knows God. The one who does not love does not know God, for God is love. By this the love of God was manifested in us, that God has sent His only begotten Son into the world so that we might live through Him. In this is love, not that we loved God, but that He loved us and sent His Son to be the propitiation for our sins. Beloved, if God so loved us, we also ought to love one another. No one has seen God at any time; if we love one another, God abides in us, and His love is perfected in us.”

• **The Love Chapter: 1 Corinthians, Chapter 13**

1 Corinthians 13:4-8, 13 “Love is patient, love is kind and is not jealous; love does not brag and is not arrogant, does not act unbecomingly; it does not seek its own, is not provoked, does not take into account a wrong suffered, does not rejoice in unrighteousness, but rejoices with the truth; bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things. Love never fails....But now faith, hope, love, abide these three; but the greatest of these is love.”

**The Love Lessons from the Word of God: “Love is to be a priority in our lives!”**

## 5. We have been taught how to love by God's people

**Acts 4:32 "And the congregation of those who believed were of one heart and soul..."**

A. Love has always been the true mark of Christianity!

**The Love Lesson from the People of God: "Love gives us a little taste of heaven!"**

### III. The Daily Assignment

1 Thessalonians 1:30 "...constantly bearing in mind your...labor of love ..."

1 Thessalonians 4:10 "...for indeed you do practice it toward all the brethren who are in all Macedonia."

"Do not waste your time bothering whether you 'love' your neighbor; act as if you did. As soon as we do this, we find one of the great secrets. When you are behaving as if you loved someone, you will presently come to love him. If you injure someone you dislike, you will find yourself disliking him more. If you do him a good turn, you will find yourself disliking him less." (C.S. Lewis, Mere Christianity)

### IV. The Supernatural Application

1 Thessalonians 4:10 "...But we urge you, brethren, to excel still more..."

1 Corinthians 14:1 "Pursue love..."

John 13:35 "By this all men will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another."

#### ***The Hindrances to Love in Our Lives***

- Selfishness (2 Cor. 8:1-5)
- Disobedience (Mt. 24:12)
- Fear (2 Tim. 1:7; Lk. 7:47)
- Lack of forgiveness (Eph. 4:32; 1 Pet. 4:8)
- Conditional love (Lk. 6:31-35)
- Pride (Phil. 2:2-4)

#### ***The Hindrances to Love in Our Local Church***

- Overemphasis on doctrine (Rev. 2:1-4; 1 Cor. 8:1)
- Personal favoritism (Jas. 2:1-5, 8-9)
- Programs (2 Cor. 3:5-6)

Romans 12:9 "Let love be without hypocrisy"

1 Peter 4:8 "Above all, keep fervent in your love for one another, because love covers a multitude of sins."

Concluding Challenge: "School is now adjourned. Make sure you do your homework!"

#### **DISCUSSION QUESTIONS & ACTION ITEMS:**

1. Make a guess as to how many messages on love you have heard? Why do we all need the constant reminders to love one another? Give an example in your own life.
2. Why does God take personal interest in teaching His children how to love? Why now?
3. Read out loud: 1 Corinthians 13:4-8 "Love is patient, love is kind and is not jealous; love does not brag and is not arrogant, does not act unbecomingly; it does not seek its own, is not provoked, does not take into account a wrong suffered, does not rejoice in unrighteousness, but rejoices with the truth; bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things. Love never fails..."
4. In what specific ways do you specifically need to "excel still more" in loving others?
5. Read 1 John this week.
6. For further study: Discuss "The Hindrances to Love" in Outline Point IV above.