

## Love Turned Inside Out 4:9-12

Holiness / Love / Integrity

**vs. 9**, brotherly (Φιλαδελφία / Philadelphia) love  
Sibling love -> tolerance, loyalty, and forgiveness.

**Romans 12:10** Love one another deeply as brothers and sisters. Take the lead in honoring one another.

**Hebrews 13:1** Let brotherly love continue.

**1 Peter 1:22** Since you have purified yourselves by your obedience to the truth, so that you show sincere brotherly love for each other, from a pure heart love one another constantly,

**2 Peter 1:7** godliness with brotherly affection, and brotherly affection with love.

**Matthew 23:8** “But you are not to be called ‘Rabbi,’ because you have one Teacher, and you are all brothers and sisters.

**Mark 3:32-35** A crowd was sitting around him and told him, “Look, your mother, your brothers, and your sisters are outside asking for you.” **33** He replied to them, “Who are my mother and my brothers?” **34** Looking at those sitting in a circle around him, he said, “Here are my mother and my brothers! **35** Whoever does the will of God is my brother and sister and mother.”

The fruit of kingdom alignment, kingdom living, and walking the narrow path of the kingdom is LOVE.

**1 John 4:15-18** Whoever confesses that Jesus is the Son of God—God remains in him and he in God. **16** And we have come to know and to believe the love that God has for us. God is love, and the one who remains in love remains in God, and God remains in him. **17** In this, love is made complete with us so that we may have confidence in the day of judgment, because as he is, so also are we in this world. **18** There is no fear in love; instead, perfect love drives out fear, because fear involves punishment. So the one who fears is not complete in love. **19** We love because he first loved us. **20** If anyone says, “I love God,” and yet hates his brother or sister, he is a liar. For the person who does not love his brother or sister whom he has seen cannot love God whom he has not seen. **21** And we have this command from him: The one who loves God must also love his brother and sister.

Taught by God  
to love one another.

To be taught by God is not to accept the idea of change, but to actually be changed!

**John 6:45** It is written in the Prophets: **And they will all be taught by God.** Everyone who has listened to and learned from the Father comes to me—  
Jesus is referring to Isaiah 54:13

**Question:** Do you have an idea of repentance or have you actually repented? Do you have an idea of love or are you actually engaged in loving others? Do you have an idea of holiness or are you actually pursuing humble obedience?

**Matthew 7:18-20** A good tree can’t produce bad fruit; neither can a bad tree produce good fruit. **19** Every tree that doesn’t produce good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire. **20** So you’ll recognize them by their fruit.

The concept of loving your neighbor was well understood among the people of God whether Jew or Gentile.

**Leviticus 19:18** Do not take revenge or bear a grudge against members of your community, but love your neighbor as yourself; I am the Lord.

Christian love provided society a sharp contrast.

- Society consists of all kinds of biases and social restrictions.
- But the church was a place that was different.
- Love defined the relationships.
- The church was open to people of all social classes and any ethnic background.
- The free and the slave were welcome. Greeks, Romans, Macedonians, Jews, and barbarians gathered together to share the same cup in the worship of their one Lord, Jesus.
- Men and Women respected and learned from each other.
- Common social boundaries were crossed as a fruit of their common salvation (Galatians 3:23; Romans 1:16-17; Colossians 3:11).

**Question:** Is your everyday characterized by Jesus centered love? What cultural biases are you allowing to get in the way of sibling love?

**vs. 10,** You are doing this well throughout the entire region.  
Keep going!

**vs. 11,** With Integrity

We are prepared for the return of Jesus as we daily step into the beauty of sanctification (holiness) and we demonstrate our faithfulness to Jesus through our integrity in our everyday work.

- Lead a quiet life.
- Mind your own business.
- Work with your own hands.

What is Paul trying to communicate? 3 Options

1. There was idleness and a lack of motivation among those in the church because of their misunderstanding about Jesus' return.
2. They were starting to treat the church how they treated other voluntary associations (clubs).
3. Believers should not forsake regular work in view of tying themselves to wealthy benefactors.

Context: Institution of Patronage

"Clients were attached to patrons of higher status and economic solvency, hoping to receive from them benefits such as food and representation, while they gave their patrons honor and augmented their status in society by showing up for the morning greeting at their home and giving them public support. The more clients a person would have, the more important he or she would appear to others. Honor was the name of the game." ~ Gene L. Green, The Pillar New Testament Commentary

As followers of Jesus we do have hope of his return.

Seek (**aspire**) to lead quiet life.

In Greek these are not concepts that would have been put together.

**Aspiration** in the city of Thessalonica would have been associated with struggling, persevering, and most importantly, competing.

All of this was done in order for an individual to get ahead. Do whatever it takes to get to the top.

Paul turns a cultural word / phrase / concept on its head.

**Aspire** to live quietly.

Followers of Jesus act differently.

When we struggle and persevere the goal is not to conquer the world by stepping over others.

Don't live according to the values of the world and its model for success!

**Question:** Where are your aspirations taking you? Are they leading you to earthly prestige or are they leading you to the peace of Jesus?

The people of God are quiet. -> They aren't adding noise to an already deafening loud world.

This doesn't mean that believers retreat. It means that believers live as redeemed, grace saturated children who are content. We are secure in our identity which is found in Christ. It is this contentment that allows our hearts to experience quietness and our lives to be characterized by quietness.

**Question:** Are you content? Where do you find your contentment? Is your identity built on the foundation of Jesus?

**Why?**

**vs. 12,** So that you may behave properly  
In the presence of outsiders.  
Not dependent on anyone.

Jesus followers are respectful and trustworthy.  
They meet real needs in the community and they don't exploit grace.  
Wherever need exists in the community, Paul assumes that believing brothers and sisters will step in and offer support.

Reputation is important.  
Do those inside and outside the church regard you as whole and holy?

**Question:** What is your reputation?