

Reflecting on 1 Thessalonians 4:9-12
September 6, 2020

Introduction: This week's passage is a continuation of the previous section of 1 Thessalonians 4:1-2. Here, Paul challenges the church to please God by the way that they "walk." The first part of the chapter deals with sexual purity. This section adds two other ideas to the list of ways to please God:

Loving Well (vv. 9-10) and *Living Well* (vv. 11-12).

The Big Idea of the passage is that *Christians please God when they love well and live well in the midst of a watching world.*

Up for Discussion:

1. What part from the message sticks out to you as a key truth for you to consider this week?

2. Take a moment to reflect on the message. If you had to summarize the message with a "take-home" type of sentence or sentences, what would your sentence(s) say?

3. In verse 9, Paul makes the bold statement to the church that they, “had been taught by God to love one another.” How did this teaching take place? Or to ask it a different way, how does God teach us to love other believers?

4. What does Christian love look like at CBC? In what ways have you seen or experienced Christian love in our church?

5. What are some ways that our church (Calvary Baptist) can be loving other Bible-believing churches in our area? What might keep us from taking opportunities to love other churches?

6. Paul gave the church three challenges about living well:

- To live quiet (peaceful) lives (lives free from anxiety and fear)
- To mind your own affairs (rather than meddle in other people’s)
- To work with your hand (rather than take advantage of others and their generosity)

Which of these comes most naturally to you?

Which of these is most difficult for you?

7. Why is “walking properly” before people in the world so important? What is at stake if we don’t love well and live well?