

1 Thessalonians 4: 9-12

Love in the Church

THE EXAMPLE OF LOVE

- Philadelphia is used again for the sense of a community for love
- The church at Thessaloniki was the supreme example to all churches
- Paul credits God by saying that He taught them, 'dictate'
- They were remarkable in their demonstration of love toward one another
- It is not totally in the sense as a divine communication as much as it is a divine relationship established by God in each other's hearts.
- A love born of God, filled with consequences of His Spirit which means they could not be in fellowship with God and not have that love flow to others.
- It was not a manufactured affection from myself, but God's placement of love in me
- After all, I don't love those who are hard to love naturally
- Not only did they get taught the lesson, but they practiced it to other churches too
- Macedonia included the churches in Neapolis, Philippi and Berea
- This is a great mark of Christ's family
- They are exhorted (called) to practice it even more, to excel all the more
- Nobody is without excuse as it is a gift through the Holy Spirit
- For many trust Christ meant severing ties to family
- Love was spread abroad in their hearts (Rom. 5:5, Gal. 5:22)

LOVING WELL

- Paul says to make it your ambition, be zealous, strive eagerly, consider it an honor
- Here are two concrete examples of love in action
- 1. Lead a quiet life - be at rest, remain silent, avoid being a busybody (2 Thess. 3:11)
- Eliminate restlessness, meddlesomeness & mind your own business
- Satan wants to disquiet (killer D's) us into worrying and talking about everything else
- Our noses in everyone else's business is not love
- 2. Get to work - this not just in a manual labor, but not idling by, not complacency
- As 2 Thess. 3 also addresses is those doing little waiting on the parousia
- Using the second coming as an excuse instead of motivation, responsibility, opportunity
- Laziness has no place in our life as Christ's family
- 3. Behave properly to everyone - live decently, walk honestly, with credibility everywhere
- Christ's family is not a switch we turn off and on, the Spirit resides full-time
- Christ's family are givers not takers
- 4.
- 5.
- 6.
- 7.