



Message Series Guide

Re:Connect

Part 2 – Reconnecting to Others

I Thessalonians 2:3-8

Over the past year, the COVID-19 pandemic has certainly been successful in creating distance between people. Even though distancing was helpful to slow the spread of the virus, it was very unhelpful in keeping people connected in close relationships. We were not created to do life or ministry alone. Being connected to one another in Christ-honoring relationships was God's plan from the beginning (Genesis 2:18) God designed us to need and care for one another. The Apostle Paul described his love for the Thessalonian believers by comparing it to the bond between a newborn baby and its mother. Believers today should continue to care for one another with the love and gentleness of Christ. This happens best when we are connected to one another in close, personal relationships.

READ:

I Thessalonians 2:2-8 • Ephesians 4:32 • Matthew 5:5 (NASB) • Ecclesiastes 4:9-10

- Why do you think the Apostle Paul cared so much for the Thessalonian believers? Why should we care for one another as believers in Christ? Why do you think God created us to be relational?
- Why are motives so important in relationships? What are some impure motives that people may have for trying to connect with others in relationships? Why is it critical that we are connected to like-minded people in God-honoring relationships? How does this strengthen the local church?
- In the first 6 verses of 2 Thessalonians, Paul centers everything around the fact that they worship God and God alone. What can happen relationally when we let people/things shape our lives other than God?
- How did the Apostle Paul care for the Thessalonians while he preached the gospel to them and led them to maturity in Christ? How did Jesus love and care for people during his life on earth?
- What parallels can you make between the way a mother raises and nurtures her children and the way that the Apostle Paul and others shared the gospel and nurtured the Thessalonians to maturity in Christ? How do those characteristics play into caring for people in the right way?

DISCUSS:

- The Apostle Paul is very clear regarding his affection for the church of Thessalonica. Describe a time when someone you respected communicated genuine love for you? What difference did that make in your life?
- Who shared the gospel with you? Did your conversion to Christ happen outside the context of a personal relationship? How important are relationships when it comes to sharing the Gospel?
- What is likely to happen when we disconnect from like-minded believers? Have you ever felt completely disconnected from others? Describe that experience.
- Who are the people you are connected to in relationships right now that need care and attention from you or your Journey Group?

PRAY:

Pray that God would give you the opportunity to connect to like-minded believers so that you may extend the same kind of care and love that the Apostle Paul extended to the Thessalonian believers.

RESPOND:

If there is someone in your life right now who needs love and care, commit to connect with them this week in order to share the Gospel and share yourself.