

## Challenged to Love

**1 Thessalonians 4:9–10** Now concerning brotherly love you have no need for anyone to write to you, for you yourselves have been taught by God to love one another, <sup>10</sup> for that indeed is what you are doing to all the brothers throughout Macedonia. But we urge you, brothers, to do this more and more,

**1 Thessalonians 1:3** remembering before our God and Father your work of faith and labor of love and steadfastness of hope in our Lord Jesus Christ.

**1 Thessalonians 3:6** But now that Timothy has come to us from you, and has brought us the good news of your faith and love and reported that you always remember us kindly and long to see us, as we long to see you—

**1 Thessalonians 3:11–13** <sup>11</sup> Now may our God and Father himself, and our Lord Jesus, direct our way to you, <sup>12</sup> and may the Lord make you increase and abound in love for one another and for all, as we do for you, <sup>13</sup> so that he may establish your hearts blameless in holiness before our God and Father, at the coming of our Lord Jesus with all his saints.

**1 Thessalonians 5:13** <sup>13</sup> and to esteem them very highly in love because of their work. Be at peace among yourselves.

and may the Lord make you increase and abound in love for one another and for all-

may the Lord- not from us, but we should be working with all our might for this. Spiritual and the practical

Increase-to cause to be intense, to cause to be more, to cause to grow<sup>1</sup> become more and more , be in abundance, have in plenty<sup>2</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> Louw, J. P., & Nida, E. A. (1996). *Greek-English lexicon of the New Testament: based on semantic domains* (electronic ed. of the 2nd edition., Vol. 1, p. 688). New York: United Bible Societies.

<sup>2</sup> Swanson, J. (1997). *Dictionary of Biblical Languages with Semantic Domains: Greek (New Testament)* (electronic ed.). Oak Harbor: Logos Research Systems, Inc.

Abound- provide in abundance , have more than enough, excessive, a very great degree<sup>3</sup>

If love was a crop Paul is asking God to give them a super abundant harvest.

Love- agape

**Deuteronomy 6:5** You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your might.

An inexplicable power of soul given in the inward person<sup>4</sup>

**Deuteronomy 13:4** You shall walk after the LORD your God and fear him and keep his commandments and obey his voice, and you shall serve him and hold fast to him.

Does justice to the feeling of love<sup>5</sup>

Love without action is lies,

In the NT love is always described in terms of what it does, it is always a verb doing something for someone,

It seeks the highest good of others, it is not selfish, it is what Christ modeled for us.

We see it perfectly as God gave His son for the sins of the world, and John tells us this is what love is and that we should do the same.

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<sup>3</sup> Swanson, J. (1997). [\*Dictionary of Biblical Languages with Semantic Domains: Greek \(New Testament\)\*](#) (electronic ed.). Oak Harbor: Logos Research Systems, Inc.

<sup>4</sup> Quell, G., & Stauffer, E. (1964–). [ἀγαπάω, ἀγάπη, ἀγαπητός](#). G. Kittel, G. W. Bromiley, & G. Friedrich (Eds.), *Theological dictionary of the New Testament* (electronic ed., Vol. 1, p. 23). Grand Rapids, MI: Eerdmans.

<sup>5</sup> Quell, G., & Stauffer, E. (1964–). [ἀγαπάω, ἀγάπη, ἀγαπητός](#). G. Kittel, G. W. Bromiley, & G. Friedrich (Eds.), *Theological dictionary of the New Testament* (electronic ed., Vol. 1, p. 23). Grand Rapids, MI: Eerdmans.

For one another and for all-

This abundance of self-sacrificing love, active reaching out to others love, who is to receive this wealth of abundant love?

First and foremost, demonstrated to believers but not without letting that divine character shine to those outside the church.

Now concerning brotherly love you have no need for anyone to write to you-

Philadelphia- brotherly love, this should come naturally if you are born again.

for you yourselves have been taught by God to love one another-

in the heart by the Holy Spirit (Jn 6:45; Heb 8:11; 1 Jn 2:20, 27)<sup>6</sup>

for that indeed is what you are doing to all the brothers throughout Macedonia-

They are already putting this into practice, to other Christians in the region, letting that God implanted, fruit of the Spirit love for other believers show in their actions

But we urge you, brothers, to do this more and more-

**DO THIS ---MORE AND MORE!**

to be or exist in abundance, with the implication of being considerably more than what would be expected<sup>7</sup>

more than, to a greater degree, even more.’<sup>8</sup>

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<sup>6</sup> Jamieson, R., Fausset, A. R., & Brown, D. (1997). [\*Commentary Critical and Explanatory on the Whole Bible\*](#) (Vol. 2, p. 389). Oak Harbor, WA: Logos Research Systems, Inc.

<sup>7</sup> Louw, J. P., & Nida, E. A. (1996). [\*Greek-English lexicon of the New Testament: based on semantic domains\*](#) (electronic ed. of the 2nd edition., Vol. 1, p. 599). New York: United Bible Societies.

<sup>8</sup> Louw, J. P., & Nida, E. A. (1996). [\*Greek-English lexicon of the New Testament: based on semantic domains\*](#) (electronic ed. of the 2nd edition., Vol. 1, p. 687). New York: United Bible Societies.

Give more than what you think is expected and more often than you think it is expected and keep doing it over and over always adding to it more and more.

You could occupy yourself in the most fulfilling way for the rest of your life by striving to live this out. It is all consuming, all encompassing, and all fulfilling.

What Paul is praying for God to give them an abundance of Paul is now urging them to put into practice, to let grow and distribute.

It is like a farmer tending his crop; planting, harvesting, keeping the weeds out, even though God must supply the increase.

How can we love our fellow believers more and more?

Be open to the conviction of the Spirit of ways you are not loving others as God would have you to.

How to do view people, judgmental, instead of helping?

How do you serve people, we should do this, are you helping?

How do you encourage people, they should do this, are you helping?

Anybody can point out faults, it takes mature dedicated people to make progress in areas that need correction. **6 to 1 ratio**

This is why the New Testament is emphatic in saying love is the crowing virtue that binds us together.

**Question:** I often hear all sins are the same. There are no big and little sins. Often this is in the context of all the sexual sin in our culture. Is this biblical, is all sin the same?