

Home Group Helps

1 Thessalonians 4:9-12

Living in the Light of His Return: The Simple Christian Life

I. Love Others (v.9-10) – ⁹ Now as to the love of the brethren, you have no need for *anyone* to write to you, for you yourselves are taught by God to love one another; ¹⁰ for indeed you do practice it toward all the brethren who are in all Macedonia. But we urge you, brethren, to excel still more,

II. Lead a Quiet Life (v.11a) – ¹¹ and to make it your ambition to lead a quiet life

III. Leave Others Alone (v.11b) – and attend to your own business

IV. Labor Hard (v.11c-12) – ¹¹ and work with your hands, just as we commanded you; ¹² so that you may behave properly toward outsiders and not be in any need.

1. Launching Question(s):

- Have you ever known someone who was “so heavenly minded that they were of no earthly good?”

2. Observation Question(s):

- Some in the church of Thessalonica had a warped view of the return of Christ to the point that they were refusing to work and had become a burden to others.
- They were inappropriately taking advantage of “love,” so Paul states, “if anyone is not willing to work, then he is not to eat, either.” (2 Thess. 3:10).
- What are some practical implications for this principle in the Church? In the culture at large?

3. Interpretation Question(s):

- Paul reminds the Thessalonians that Christians are “taught by God to love one another” (v.9).
- How is this so?

4. Reflection Question(s):

- In the sermon, several potential “love blockers” were mentioned. Did any of these “love blockers” resonate with you as an area in which you need to repent?
- How are you not leading a “Simple Christian Life” as defined by this passage/sermon?
- How are you leading a “Simple Christian Life”?

5. Application Question(s):

- Tertullian once reported that the Romans would say about the Christians, “See how they love one another.” How might those in Anderson, SC, say the same of our church?