

Sermon Title: The Picture of a Consistent Orderly Life, Part 1

Sermon Text: 1 Thessalonians 4:9-12

Sermon Purpose: To call the hearer to reflect the evidences of a well ordered lifestyle.

Sermon Proposition: There are 3 principles of a well ordered lifestyle.

Introduction: Luke 19:12-27

I. Love is the principle that generates an orderly life. vv.9-10a

II. Love is the practice that governs an orderly life. vv.10b-11

III. Love is the provision that guides an orderly life. v.12

I. Love is the principle that generates an orderly life. vv.9-10a

Unlike most churches, the Christians at the Thessalonian church seemed to have mastered the art of loving each other, as well as those in society around them. The issue that needed emphasis among them and churches today, was the idea of fraternal love (4:9-10) and instructions concerning the Christian's relationship with the wider community in which they lived. (4:11-12; cf. 3:12)

2 Peter 1:7 to godliness brotherly kindness, and to brotherly kindness love.

The first question Paul addresses is about family love (Philidelphia).

Revelation 2:9 "I know your works, tribulation, and poverty (but you are rich); and *I know* the blasphemy of those who say they are Jews and are not, but *are* a synagogue of Satan.

Philemon 8-16 Therefore, though I might be very bold in Christ to command you what is fitting, ⁹ yet for love's sake I rather appeal *to you*-- being such a one as Paul, the aged, and now also a prisoner of Jesus Christ-- ¹⁰ I appeal to you for my son Onesimus, whom I have begotten *while* in my chains, ¹¹ who once was unprofitable to you, but now is profitable to you and to me. ¹² I am sending him back. You therefore receive him, that is, my own heart, ¹³ whom I wished to keep with me, that on your behalf he might minister to me in my chains for the gospel. ¹⁴ But without your consent I wanted to do nothing, that your good deed might not be by compulsion, as it were, but voluntary. ¹⁵ For perhaps he departed for a while for this *purpose*, that you might receive him forever, ¹⁶ no longer as a slave but more than a slave-- a beloved brother, especially to me but how much more to you, both in the flesh and in the Lord.

Paul regularly commends the Christians for their mutual love for one another.

(1:3; 3:6, 12; 5:8; 2 Thessalonians 1:3; 3:5)

1. Were there violations? (4:3-8)
2. Questions and doubt about leadership in the church (5:12-13)
3. Disorderly lifestyles (4:11-12)
4. Difficult to help members (5:14b)
5. Social rejection (2:14)

While Christian conversion generally brought instability to the traditional family unit (**Matthew 10:21**).

Mark 13:12 "Now brother will betray brother to death, and a father *his* child; and children will rise up against parents and cause them to be put to death.

Luke 21:16 "You will be betrayed even by parents and brothers, relatives and friends; and they will put *some* of you to death.

Christians now belonged to the same family unit, reflecting mutual love for new family group.

The church now takes on the function of a family, while the place of meeting, the house, served to reinforce the reality of Christian's becoming members of the same brotherhood and sisterhood.

Romans 16:5 Likewise *greet* the church that is in their house. Greet my beloved Epaenetus, who is the firstfruits of Achaia to Christ.

1 Corinthians 16:19 The churches of Asia greet you. Aquila and Priscilla greet you heartily in the Lord, with the church that is in their house.

Colossians 4:15 Greet the brethren who are in Laodicea, and Nymphas and the church that *is* in his house.

The church must understand and practice the absolute importance of fraternal love since the church was open to people of all social classes and any ethnic background. Both the free and the slave, Greek, Romans, Macedonians, Jews, Barbarians, all gathered together to share the same cup of worship of the Lord Jesus Christ.

A. Christians are taught to love, through God's Word (**Psalm 119:97-102**)

B. Christians are **taught** to love, by God Himself. (**Romans 5:5**)

1 John 2:7-11 Brethren, I write no new commandment to you, but an old commandment which you have had from the beginning. The old commandment is the word which you heard from the beginning. **8** Again, a new commandment I write to you, which thing is true in Him and in you, because the darkness is passing away, and the true light is already shining. **9** He who says he is in the light, and hates his brother, is in darkness until now. **10** He who loves his brother abides in the light, and there is no cause for stumbling in him. **11** But he who hates his brother is in darkness and walks in darkness, and does not know where he is going, because the darkness has blinded his eyes.

1 John 3:14 We know that we have passed from death to life, because we love the brethren. He who does not love *his* brother abides in death.

1 John 4:7 Beloved, let us love one another, for love is of God; and everyone who loves is born of God and knows God.

1 John 4:8 He who does not love does not know God, for God is love.

1 John 4:12 No one has seen God at any time. If we love one another, God abides in us, and His love has been perfected in us.

Isaiah 54:13 All your children *shall be* taught by the LORD, And great *shall be* the peace of your children.

John 6:45 "It is written in the prophets, 'And they shall all be taught by God.' Therefore everyone who has heard and learned from the Father comes to Me.

C. Christians are **commanded** to love by Jesus Christ.

The command "to love one another" was a central theme of Jesus' teaching and the example of His life.

John 13:34-35 "A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another; as I have loved you, that you also love one another. **35** "By this all will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another."

John 15:12 "This is My commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you.

John 15:17 "These things I command you, that you love one another.

Romans 12:10 *Be* kindly affectionate to one another with brotherly love, in honor giving preference to one another;

D. Christians are empowered to love, by the Holy Spirit.

Galatians 5:22-25 But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, **23** gentleness, self-control. Against such there is no law. **24** And those *who are* Christ's have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires. **25** If we live in the Spirit, let us also walk in the Spirit.

The Thessalonians already demonstrated clear evidence by not only loving one another but also by extending the love to other Christians who lived outside of Thessalonica.

1. Providing hospitality
Romans 16:1-2 I commend to you Phoebe our sister, who is a servant of the church in Cenchrea, **2** that you may receive her in the Lord in a manner worthy of the saints, and assist her in whatever business she has need of you; for indeed she has been a helper of many and of myself also.
2. Providing economic support to Christian mission
Philippians 4:14-16 Nevertheless you have done well that you shared in my distress. **15** Now you Philippians know also that in the beginning of the gospel, when I departed from Macedonia, no church shared with me concerning giving and receiving but you only. **16** For even in Thessalonica you sent *aid* once and again for my necessities.
3. Providing financial aid to Christians in need
2 Corinthians 8:1-5 Moreover, brethren, we make known to you the grace of God bestowed on the churches of Macedonia: **2** that in a great trial of affliction the abundance of their joy and their deep poverty abounded in the riches of their liberality. **3** For I bear witness that according to *their* ability, yes, and beyond *their* ability, *they were* freely willing, **4** imploring us with much urgency that we would receive the gift and the fellowship of the ministering to the saints. **5** And not *only* as we had hoped, but they first gave themselves to the Lord, and *then* to us by the will of God.
4. Providing distribution of food (**Acts 6:1-4; 2 Thessalonians 3:10**)
Romans 15:26-27 For it pleased those from Macedonia and Achaia to make a certain contribution for the poor among the saints who are in Jerusalem. **27** It pleased them indeed, and they are their debtors. For if the Gentiles have been partakers of their spiritual things, their duty is also to minister to them in material things.
5. Proclaiming the Gospel everywhere. (**1 Thessalonians 1:6-10; 13-14**)