



EXPLORE THE BIBLE.

1, 2 Thessalonians Sermon Series
Supports Session 5: Demonstrated
Sermon Title: How to Be a Blessing for Others
Passage: 1 Thessalonians 4:10b-11

Connection to 1 Thessalonians 4:1-12

The fruit of a person's faith is seen by living holy lives pleasing to God. This message gives some practical ways that this is lived out as a believer in Christ to be a blessing for others.

Introduction/Opening

A classic hymn of the church is the hymn "Holy, holy, holy." The third verse of this classic hymn from 1826 says this:

Holy, holy, holy! Though the darkness hide thee,
though the eye of sinfulness thy glory may not see,
only thou art holy; there is none beside thee,
perfect in pow'r, in love, and purity.¹

This song, and this verse specifically, demonstrate the perfection of God, especially in contrast to man's imperfection. Yet we are called to be holy in passages such as Leviticus 19:2. But how do we do that?

First, and most important, we must come to Christ. After salvation, though, comes our quest to be more and more like Jesus. This process is called sanctification. As we grow to be more like Christ, we become more useful for His kingdom work. We'll never reach perfection, but that does not excuse us from taking forward steps, leaning on the One who is perfect.

And why? So, we can lead others to become worshipers of Christ. We can be a blessing to those around us to see close up what the life of Christ is all about.

Outline

1. Love generously.
 - a. Love even more.
 - i. Paul encouraged the church to continue to love one another as they had been doing already (vv. 9-10). However, he encouraged them to go even further in this act—to love even more.
 - ii. See John 13:34-35; Romans 12:10; 1 Peter 1:22; 4:8; 1 John 4:7.

¹ Reginald Heber and John Bacchus Dykes, *Holy, Holy, Holy*, 1826, Public Domain.

- b. But how?
 - i. Love is seen in our common courtesy, our service to others, and in the way that we approach daily life—even when things don't go our way. But the point is that we love people more and more.
 - ii. See Matthew 7:12.
- 2. Live quietly.
 - a. Be at peace.
 - i. We love people, and we do it without pretense. When we love this way, we give non-Christians no reason to find fault with us. In fact, it can even be disarming for those who view believers as hypocrites.
 - ii. See Matthew 5:16; 1 Peter 2:12.
 - b. But how?
 - i. Living quietly does not mean never taking a stand. It means being wise with words, standing for the essentials, speaking when the Bible speaks on matters. In other words, rely on God's Word as THE authority.
 - ii. To live quietly in a practical sense is to live humbly, soberly, and sensibly.
- 3. Focus internally.
 - a. Confess sin and lean on grace.
 - i. No one is without sin. No one is perfect. We are imperfect, even broken.
 - 1. See Jeremiah 17:9-10; Romans 3:23; 5:12-14; 6:23; Ephesians 2:1-3.
 - ii. Yet we are given the gift of God's grace.
 - 1. When we confess our sins, God's grace responds
 - 2. See Psalm 32:5; Ephesians 1:7; 1 John 1:5-9.
 - iii. Jesus tells us to focus on our own walk first before looking to others.
 - 1. See Matthew 7:1-5.
- 4. Represent externally

This is both a verbal and a visual proclamation of Jesus.

 - a. When one loves generously, lives quietly, and focuses on their walk with Christ, that person represents Jesus well to the world.
 - i. Visual proclamation: 2 Corinthians 5:20; Ephesians 6:20
 - ii. Verbal proclamation: Matthew 28:19-20; Acts 1:8

Conclusion

None of these are easy, but when we rely on the power of the Holy Spirit, God can use us to be a blessing for those around us. We can bring people to Jesus as we live in a way that pleases God and seek to share His love with those around us.

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