



EXPLORE THE BIBLE.

1, 2 Thessalonians Sermon Series
Supports Session 9: Living
Sermon Title: A Daily Walk Together!
Passage: 1 Thessalonians 5:12-15

Connection to 1 Thessalonians 5:12-24

One way to demonstrate a person's salvation is the way that the believer ministers and acts toward others. Ultimately, it is about the love of Jesus.

Introduction/Opening

We've all heard of it or experienced it. The classic family trip, driving down the highway, adults in the front, kids in the back, and all is well in the car. For a minute. Maybe two. Quarrels from the back seats rarely happen suddenly but often with subtlety. Disagreements occur with a word or two, then a sentence, then some complaining and growling toward one another. And if left unchecked, the happy family trip can become a stressful mess for all!

Paul's words ring so true for moments like this but also for daily life. We are on a journey together, traveling through this world until we are called home by the Lord. This means that we are to live joyfully with one another, loving God and people as a demonstration of a changed life in Christ.

Outline

1. Live in love (vv. 12-14).
 - a. Hold to biblical truth.
 - i. Paul encouraged the church above all to have a mutual love and respect for one another, including their leaders. What is the ministry that they hold dear? The ministry of the Word and of prayer.
 1. See Acts 6:4; Colossians 4:12; 1 Timothy 5:17-18.
 2. Leaders are to be upheld, particularly those who love through the Word.
 - ii. We are to hold firm in the foundations of one's faith, based on God's Word.
 1. See Ephesians 4:15; 2 Timothy 3:16-17; 1 John 3:18.
 2. The church should be free to care for one's walk, and for each other's walks.
 - b. Help comfort the discouraged
 - i. Discouraged could also be expressed as fainthearted, even despondent. They might be discouraged about their walk, or about the world, or about circumstances around them (2 Cor. 1:3-7).

- ii. A believer should be ready to minister to the ones who struggle. And while one may need encouragement now, another may need it later. This is what all believers can do for one another.
 - c. Value one another (v. 14).
 - i. Paul’s words used here are to “help the weak,” and this comes from valuing all people, no matter how they are walking.
 - ii. Multiple ways to see this term:
 - 1. Those who are spiritually weak, lacking maturity in their walk.
 - 2. Those who are morally weak, failing in their walk.
 - 3. Those who are physically weak, needing benevolent support from the church.
 - iii. No matter what, believers are to support and serve those who struggle.
 - d. Help exhibit a biblical tolerance
 - i. A biblical tolerance is different than a modern interpretation of tolerance. Biblical tolerance is to love others while holding to biblical convictions. This is a tolerance that does not compromise truth.
 - ii. Examples: Matthew 5:39; Romans 12:20-21; Ephesians 4:15
2. Promote love (v. 15).
- a. Love zealously.
 - i. Protecting the peace is seen in Paul’s encouragement to “See to it that no one repays evil for evil to anyone” (v. 15).
 - ii. This is not only practicing the concept of repaying evil for good but also the concept that we are to help others to do the same. We protect the peace by helping others to not retaliate when wronged. This can be persecution, insults, or any other harm done with an evil intent. The whole church is responsible for the whole church to repay evil with good—and to do it zealously.
 - b. Pursue love steadfastly
 - i. To preserve love is good, but even more, the Christian is to pursue all good things for all people.
 - ii. See 1 Corinthians 14:1a; 16:14; 1 Timothy 6:11-12.
 - iii. We live a life of love, gaining credibility as lovers of God, which gives us the opportunity to promote love in all things.

Conclusion

This takes us to the ultimate act of love: the love that God demonstrated for us when He sent His Son, Jesus to die for our sins on the cross. The gospel is about love, where God dealt with the harsh truth of our sins against Him and made the way for us to be with Him forever. This is where one begins: receive Jesus as Savior. Come to Him today.

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