

1 Thes. 4:9-12

- I. You have brotherly love taught by God (9-10a)
 - A. You do not have a need for me to write to you concerning brotherly love (9a)
 - B. Reason: You have already been taught by God and you love (9b-10a)
 - 1. For you yourselves are taught by God (9b)
 - This is true not only of the Thessalonians, but of every true Christian
 - 2. Result: you love one another and all the brothers (9c-10a)
 - a So that you love one another (9c)
 - b Reason: For you are doing the same thing to all the brothers in the whole of Macedonia (10a)
- II. We encourage you to love more and be peaceful, productive people (10b-12b)
 - A. We are encouraging/exhorting you, brothers (10b)
 - B. Specifically: What we are encouraging you to do (10c-12b)
 - 1. To abound/excel to a greater degree (10c)
 - In context this refers to brotherly love
 - Cf. v. 1 where it refers to exceling in Christian lifestyle
 - 2. To aspire to be peaceful productive members of society (11a-12b)
 - a And to aspire, have ambition (11a)
 - b Specifically: what they should aspire to: (11b-12b)
 - 1) To not disturb the peace (11b)
 - 2) And to mind your own things (11c)
 - Attend to your own affairs, don't be a busybody
 - But the emphasis is not on avoiding other's affairs
 - The emphasis is on tending your own affairs well
 - 3) And to work with your hands to provide needs and protect reputation (11d-12b)
 - a) And to work with your hands like we told you (11d-11e)
 - (1) And to work with your own hands (11d)
 - (2) Just as we have commanded you (11e)
 - b) Purpose: to provide needs and protect the reputation (12a-12b)
 - (1) So that you would conduct your life becomingly toward those outside (12a)
 - (2) And so that no one would have need (12b)
 - Not only take care of your own needs, but supply the needs of others
 - This issue will continue to be a problem and Paul will address it again in his next letter to them