

7/26/20

*Recap of last week's message (7/19/20 - 1 Thessalonians 4:9-12):*

## **The Life Which Pleases God: Refreshing Love Requires Responsibility**

### **I. BELIEVERS ARE CALLED TO CONTINUALLY GROW IN LOVE**

- A. God Himself teaches believers about loving one another through the Holy Spirit. (9)
  - 1. Loving one another is extremely important. (John 13:34-35; John 15:12)
  - 2. Loving one another (brothers and sisters) often begins to come naturally (10a)
- B. Believers are urged to continually grow in love for one another. (10b)
  - 1. It is a continual process.
  - 2. Our love for one another can stagnate. (Augustine: Incurvatus in se - Turned in, or Curved in, upon ourselves)

### **II. GROWING IN LOVE REQUIRES PERSONAL RESPONSIBILITY**

- A. Believers are responsible for living calming, orderly lives. (11a)
  - 1. Clement of Rome used the word "quiet" (Greek: hēsychazō) in verse 11 encouraging the church toward orderly living amongst civil disorder. Calm and peacefulness are the idea. The same word is used in Luke 23:56 for rest.
- B. Believers are responsible for attending to their own business. (11b)
  - 1. Believers are to avoid needlessly meddling in the lives of others.
  - 2. Believers are to ensure their own lives are in order freeing them to better care for the needs of others.
- C. Believers are responsible for not needlessly burdening others. (11c)

### **III. BELIEVERS' LOVE FOR ONE ANOTHER BEARS WITNESS TO AN UNBELIEVING WORLD**

- A. The purpose of loving our brothers and sisters in Christ is not only to care for one another, but also to be a testimony to unbelievers. (12)
  - 1. The world offers frantic confusion, while the body of Christ should offer refreshing rest.
  - 2. The body of Christ is not meant to look like the rest of the world.

### **IV. LISTEN WELL**

- A. If we want to be a community of believers that has refreshing love toward one another, listening well to each other is absolutely necessary.
  - 1. Listen for understanding, instead of thinking about how to respond with your own opinion.
  - 2. Be patient with people.