

## Exhortations To Continue In Brotherly Love

1 Thess. 4:9-12

### Lesson 4b

**4:9 Now as to the love of the brethren [brothers and sisters], you have no need for *anyone* to write to you, for you yourselves are taught by God to love one another;**

- “peri de” [peh ree deh] means “but concerning” and some believe this indicates they had sent a letter or letters asking them questions about “brotherly love.”
- The church at Corinth had written Paul a letter asking questions on a variety of subjects. (1 Cor. 7:1, 25; 8:1; 12:1; 16:1).
- It is possible they had written Paul, but there is no clear reference to such a letter or letters in this epistle or elsewhere.
- The words “now as” [but concerning] likely just denote he is changing the subject to brotherly love.
- “anyone” is in italics and is supplied by translators.
- Most translators put “anyone” in italics to indicate it has been supplied and not found in the original Greek text.
- The NKJV has this possible translation “But concerning brotherly love you have no need that I should write to you.”
- There was no need for Paul or anyone else to write rebuking or criticizing their lack of love for one another.
- They had been previously taught by Paul and others to love one another and were doing exactly that.
- “love of the brethren” is from “philadelphia” meaning love of brothers and sisters in Christ. (Rom. 12:10; Heb 13:1; 1 Pet. 1:22; 1 Jn. 3:11-14; 4:7-8).

Rom 12:10 {Be} devoted to one another in brotherly love; give preference to one another in honor;

Heb 13:1 Let love of the brethren continue.

1 Pet 1:22 Since you have in obedience to the truth purified your souls for a sincere love of the brethren, fervently love one another from the heart,

1 John 3:11 For this is the message which you have heard from the beginning, that we should love one another; 1 John 3:12 not as Cain, {who} was of the evil one and slew his brother. And for what reason did he slay him? Because his deeds were evil, and his brother's were righteous.

1 John 3:13 Do not be surprised, brethren, if the world hates you.

1 John 3:14 We know that we have passed out of death into life, because we love the brethren. He who does not

love abides in death.

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

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

- Christians are to love all, but are to have a special love for one another.
- Christians are the family of God. (Matt. 12:49-50; 1 Tim. 3:15).

Matt 12:49 And stretching out His hand toward His disciples, He said, "Behold My mother and My brothers!

Matt 12:50 "For whoever does the will of My Father who is in heaven, he is My brother and sister and mother."

1 Tim 3:15 but in case I am delayed, {I write} so that you will know how one ought to conduct himself in the household [family] of God, which is the church of the living God, the pillar and support of the truth.

- Here are some of the ways **genuine love** is manifested.

Does not brag. (1 Cor. 13:4).	It bears burdens. (Gal. 6:2).	It is sincere. (1 Pet. 1:22).
It is not envious. (1 Cor. 13:4).	It helps financially when there is a true need. (Jas. 2:14-17; 1 Jn. 3:17-18).	It is sacrificial. (2 Cor. 8).
It encourages. (Heb. 3:13).	It teaches in love. (Eph. 4:15).	It is hospitable. (Heb. 13:2).
It restores. (Gal. 6:1).	It seeks the good of a person.	It is persistent - not now and then.
It is not conceited. (1 Cor. 13:4).	Love is patient. (1 Cor. 13:4).	Love is kind. (1 Cor. 13:4).
Must not hate. (1 Jn. 3:15).	Love does not keep account of wrongs (1 Cor. 13:5), but it is forgiving. (Matt. 6:14-15).	It rejoices in righteousness. (1 Cor. 13:6).
It is never rude. (1 Cor. 13:5).	It rejoices in the success of others.	It rejoices with the truth. (1 Cor. 13:6).

1. "Now as to the love of the brethren, you have no need for *anyone* to write to you" - Lit. "now concerning brotherly love."

a. This is a great and amazing compliment to these fairly new believers at Thessalonica.

1) As stressed before, they had only been Christians for about two years.

2) They had quickly learned what other churches then and now have been slow to learn.

3) They developed a deep and genuine love for one another.

4) This does not happen by chance, but requires prayer and work.

b. They were known for their "labor of love." (1 Thess. 1:3).

c. These brethren excelled in brotherly love.

- d. **They were a marvelous example for every church to follow then and now.**
- e. **God’s people, followers of Christ, must excel in love especially to one another.**

2. “for you yourselves are taught by God to love one another”

- a. Jesus had taught the importance of love for all. (Matt. 22:39; 5:43,44).

Matt 22:39 "The second is like it, 'YOU SHALL LOVE YOUR NEIGHBOR AS YOURSELF.'

Matt 5:43 "You have heard that it was said, 'YOU SHALL LOVE YOUR NEIGHBOR and hate your enemy.'

Matt 5:44 "But I say to you, love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you,

- b. Jesus also emphasized that love is the badge of our discipleship. (Jn. 13:34,35; 15:12).

John 13:34 "A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another, even as I have loved you, that you also love one another.

John 13:35 "By this all men 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, just as I have loved you.

**4:10 for indeed you do practice it [love] toward all the brethren [brothers and sisters] who are in all Macedonia. But we urge you, brethren [brothers and sisters], to excel [abound] still more,**

1. “for indeed you do practice it [love] toward all the brethren who are in all Macedonia”

- a. They had shown love for those in other congregations in Macedonia.
- b. Other cities in Macedonia would include Philippi and Berea.
- c. A congregation only concerned about itself is not following God’s instructions and will not make the impact on the brotherhood and the world that the Lord intended.

2. “But we urge you, brethren, to excel still more” - Paul gave a similar admonition in verse 1 of this chapter.

1 Thess 4:1 Finally then, brethren, we request and exhort you in the Lord Jesus, that as you received from us {instruction} as to how you ought to walk and please God (just as you actually do walk), that you excel still more.

- a. Christians must never be content with their spiritual progress, but they must keep growing and excelling.
- b. As long as we are alive, we should keep improving and excelling.

**4:11 and to make it your ambition [make every effort] to lead a quiet [peaceful, calm] [life and attend to [mind] your own business and work with your hands, just as we commanded you,**

1. “and to make it your ambition to lead a quiet life” - This was a life that pursued godliness.

- a. “hesuchazo” [hay soo kah zoh] meaning “to lead a quiet life.”
- b. Literally the text reads “to strive eagerly to be quiet.”

c. It denotes a calm spirit within and a spirit that leads to peaceful behavior towards others.

d. They were not to be troublemakers, that is one who generates conflict.

e. They were not to be anxious and troubled within, but calm trusting in God and His Son. (Matt. 6:25-26; Jn. 14:1; Phil. 4:6,7).

Matt 6:25 "For this reason I say to you, do not be worried about your life, {as to} what you will eat or what you will drink; nor for your body, {as to} what you will put on. Is not life more than food, and the body more than clothing?"

Matt 6:26 "Look at the birds of the air, that they do not sow, nor reap nor gather into barns, and {yet} your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not worth much more than they?"

John 14:1 "Do not let your heart be troubled; believe in God, believe also in Me.

Phil 4:6 Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God.

Phil 4:7 And the peace of God, which surpasses all comprehension, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

f. A "quiet life" would promote peace in their fellowship and dealings with one another and with outsiders.

2. "and attend to your own business and work with your hands"

a. The one who pursues godliness is not a busybody. (1 Pet. 4:15-16).

1 Pet 4:15 Make sure that none of you suffers as a murderer, or thief, or evildoer, or a troublesome meddler;

1 Pet 4:16 but if {anyone suffers} as a Christian, he is not to be ashamed, but is to glorify God in this name.

b. One who pursues godliness was not a loafer, but worked with his own hands.

1) Greek culture looked down on manual labor.

2) God's word exalts work and encourages it. (Eph. 4:28).

Eph 4:28 He who steals must steal no longer; but rather he must labor, performing with his own hands what is good, so that he will have {something} to share with one who has need.

c. Most Christians, at that time, were involved in manual labor either skilled or unskilled.

d. This passage dignifies manual labor, but it does not condemn nor demean non-manual labor.

e. Christians are to engage in honest toil - not stealing or begging or depending on others. (Eph. 4:28; 1 Tim. 5:8; 2 Thess. 3:10.).

Eph 4:28 He who steals must steal no longer; but rather he must labor, performing with his own hands what is good, so that he will have {something} to share with one who has need.

1 Tim 5:8 But if anyone does not provide for his own, and especially for those of his household, he has denied the faith and is worse than an unbeliever.

2 Thess 3:10 For even when we were with you, we used to give you this order: if anyone is not willing to work,

then he is not to eat, either.

3. “just as we commanded you”

a. This points back to the time Paul, Silas and Timothy were with them and had established the church in Thessalonica.

b. The conduct of verse 11 was not optional or a mere suggestion, but it was commanded by these authoritative spokesmen of the Lord.

**4:12 so that you will behave [lit. walk] properly [becoming] toward outsiders and not be in any need.**

1. “so that you will behave [walk, live] properly toward outsiders” -

a. Their godly conduct should gain the respect of outsiders.

b. “Outsiders” is a reference to unbelievers. (Col. 4:5; 1 Tim. 3:7).

Col 4:5 Conduct yourselves with wisdom toward outsiders, making the most of the opportunity.

1 Tim 3:7 And he must have a good reputation with those outside {the church,} so that he will not fall into reproach and the snare of the devil.

c. The RSV has “that you may command the respect of outsiders.”

d.. This refers back to:

(1) abounding in brotherly love

(2) having a quiet spirit

(3) giving attention to their own affairs

(4) working with their own hands

(5) living a life of holiness.

2. “and not be in any need”

a. Lit. “You may have need of nothing.”

b. NIV has “You will not be dependent on anybody.” ...IEB “You will not be dependent on anyone.”

c. God does not want His people who are able to work to be parasites.

d. Christians are to help believers who are needy. (1 Jn. 3:17-18; Gal. 6:10; Jas. 2:14-17).

1 John 3:17 But whoever has the world's goods, and sees his brother in need and closes his heart against him, how does the love of God abide in him?

1 John 3:18 Little children, let us not love with word or with tongue, but in deed and truth.

Gal 6:10 So then, while we have opportunity, let us do good to all people, and especially to those who are of the

household of the faith.

James 2:14 What use is it, my brethren, if someone says he has faith but he has no works? Can that faith save him?

James 2:15 If a brother or sister is without clothing and in need of daily food,

James 2:16 and one of you says to them, "Go in peace, be warmed and be filled," and yet you do not give them what is necessary for {their} body, what use is that?

James 2:17 Even so faith, if it has no works, is dead, {being} by itself.

3. God does not find pleasure in lazy Christians. (2 Thess. 3:10).

2 Thess 3:10 For even when we were with you, we used to give you this order: if anyone is not willing to work, then he is not to eat, either.

- a. Lazy Christians often beg, lie, steal or cheat to survive.
- b. Lazy Christians bring shame to God by not glorifying Him.
- c. Lazy Christians keep the church from being the light of the world and accomplishing God's will.
- d. Lazy Christians keep the church from evangelizing and laziness leads to lukewarmness and mediocrity.

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